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VALLEY FORGE

GUIDE AND HAND-BOOK

Valley Forge Pa.

VALLEY FORGE

GUIDE AND HAND-BOOK

By

REV. JAMES W. RIDDLE, A.M.

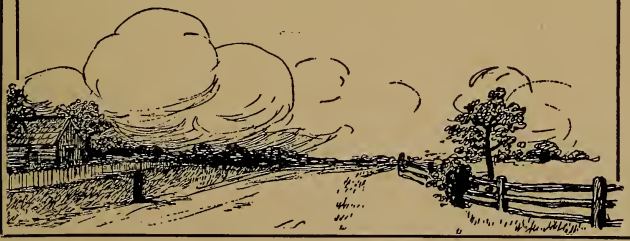
Member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Member Philadelphia Baptist Ministers Conference

"If there is a spot on the face of our broad land where patriotism should delight to pile its highest and most venerated monuments, it should be in the bosom of that rugged gorge on the bank of the Schuylkill, twenty miles northwest from Philadelphia, known as Valley Forge, where the American Army was encamped during that terrible winter of 1777–8." —LOSSING.

"Valley Forge, the 'Mecca of America,' where civilians will flock to imbibe lessons of patriotism, and soldiers to acquire inspiration of valor." —EX. GOV. POLLOCK.

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moores of England, are so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."
—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRESS OF J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY
1910



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DEDICATION

AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR TO THE MEMORY OF HIS BELOVED WIFE, ANNA MARGARET SOWER RIDDLE, WHO DIED AT VALLEY FORGE, APRIL, 25TH, 1909, AND WHOSE BIRTH PLACE WAS FOUR MILES DISTANT—CORNER STORES :: :: :: ::

PREFACE

THE purpose of the writer in the preparation of this work, as indicated by its title, has been to present in concise, yet attractive, and convenient form the story of the Valley Forge encampment in its Revolutionary setting; with it, a descriptive account of the Memorial park with its objects of interest, and a summary of important historical and topographical facts respecting the village itself. The sources of information consulted have been numerous and varied, and when quotation is made from these, due credit is invariably given. Special effort has been made to gain access to original papers and documents, and in local matters of modern date consultation has been sought with intelligent citizens. The work of research, instead of a task, has been a delightful recreation, and the author's thanks are due to all who in any way have contributed to make it fruitful. One embarrassment, not unlooked for, has been met with in the work, namely: the encounter of numerous discrepant and often conflicting statements relative to matters and questions of fact, rendering it difficult for one to reach a definite or fixed conclusion. Where reasonable effort to discover the truth in such cases has appeared unavailing, the conflicting information is given, and the reader is left to his own conclusion or personal investigation.

The subject matter of the book, it will be noted, is introduced under two sections. The first is arranged for rapid or hasty reading, while the second, with a sys-

tem of ready reference, is intended to furnish supplementary information, and may be perused at leisure.

It is not claimed for the work that it is free from mistake or error. It would be a marvel if it were so; but the desire is to make it, in future editions at least, as complete and trustworthy a compendium of important facts relative to Valley Forge as it is possible to present; and the author will gladly, and gratefully, welcome from any source any suggestion by way of correction or improvement that may occur to the intelligent reader.

That the book as it goes forth may help to swell the tide of public interest in Valley Forge, and the greater tide of national patriotism is the one desire and humble hope of

THE AUTHOR.

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SECTION ONE

VALLEY FORGE

THE super-eminent distinction of Valley Forge lies in the fact that in the American Revolution it was the winter quarters of Washington and his patriot army in the trying winter of 1777–8.

The encampment was for a period of exactly six months, from the 19th of December to the 19th of June.

It is the story of this encampment, with its harrowing details of hardship and suffering, that has given to the locality its unique place in American history, and clothed it with patriotic interest wide-spread and enduring as the nation itself.

Here no battle was fought, here no cruel ravages were wrought by onslaught of the enemy, but the trials endured and the human life here sacrificed on the altar of liberty during this, the most crucial period of the war for American Independence, render it eminently fitting, in history as in song, that the place should be extolled and venerated as:

"THE NATION'S SHRINE"

HOW REACHED

To Valley Forge from Philadelphia the distance by road is about 21 miles; by rail it is 24, the railway following the windings of the Schuylkill river. The route for pedestrians, and persons going by private conveyance, is by way of the Lancaster pike through Overbrook, Bryn Mawr and Gulph Mills. The route by rail is over the Philadelphia & Reading road from the Reading Terminal.

The regular fare, single trip, is 58 cents, but excursion tickets at a less rate are obtainable during the summer season.

From Norristown the distance is about 8 miles. From Phoenixville, which lies beyond Valley Forge, the distance is 5 miles.

A trolley company, named the "Phoenixville, Valley Forge, (Bridgeport) & Strafford Electric Railway Co." (the name indicating its route), is just completing its line as far as Valley Forge, and expects in the near future to have cars running over its entire route. When this is accomplished Valley Forge will be made easily accessible from all parts of the surrounding territory.

The trolley route from Philadelphia will then be via 69th and Market Streets, Strafford, and King of Prussia; or, via Chestnut Hill, Norristown, Bridgeport, and King of Prussia.

ROMANTIC LOCATION

The place is picturesquely situated near the mouth of Valley Creek, where the latter, after coursing for more than a mile amid wooded hills and through deep ravines, loses itself in the waters of the Schuylkill river.

A mill-dam thrown across the stream near the center of the village adds to the impressive scenery by the creation of a diminutive lake, an artificial gem, whose striking beauty is made complete by the romantic charm of the lofty hills which seem to encase it on every side.

In the accompanying view of the lake, looking south-

RIDDLE'S LANDING

ward from Riddle's Landing, Chester Co. side, Mt. Joy appears on the left, Mt. Misery on the right—names given to these hills not from camp experiences of the Revolutionary soldier, nor at the time of the encampment, but long prior. The tradition is, that in the early days of the colony, while a party of explorers were encamped for a time near by on the bank of the Schuylkill,

two of the party lost their way in these hills, and after stumbling and blundering all night amid the wilds of the one on the right, towards morning they crossed the creek, ascended the other, and from the top, through an opening, just as the sun was rising, caught joyous sight of their camp. This mountain they called Mt. Joy, that on the other side of the creek, Mt. Misery. It is said that one of the party was no less distinguished a person than William Penn, the Proprietor of the Colony.

ODDITY OF NAME

The encampment and place received their name, as is generally known, from the existence near by of a small forge in the time of the Revolution—not a forge in the sense of a smithy, or blacksmith shop, as some have inferred (although some smithy work no doubt was performed in it), but a small mill in which, by the old-time refining process, pig iron was changed into wrought iron, and put into shape for the varied uses of commerce. It was one of a considerable number of its class at that time in operation in the colony. This forge stood, as is generally conceded, on the western, or Chester Co., side of the creek, about five-eights of a mile from its mouth, where the site is still pointed out.[1] It was built not later than 1751, probably by Daniel Walker. It was owned and operated at the time of the Revolution by David Potts and William Dewees. It was burned about September 23d by British soldiers in a raid through the place, as a portion of Howe's troops on their way from French Creek (Phoenixville) crossed the Schuylkill at Fatland ford and proceeded thence toward Philadelphia.[2] This

[1] See pages 30 and 90. [2] Page 102.

was nearly three months before the Washington encampment. It was formerly known as Mt. Joy forge, belonging, as it did, to the Mt. Joy Manor, but before the Revolution it had come naturally to be designated as Valley Forge, from its location on Valley Creek. After its destruction by the British it was never rebuilt.

THE PRESENT VILLAGE

The village practically has but two streets, the old Gulph road, which dates from before the Revolution, running east and west, and the Valley Creek road, built in 1831, which crosses the Gulph road at right angles in the heart of the village, and follows the course of the creek.

Half the village is in Schuylkill township, Chester Co., the other half in Upper Merion township, Montgomery Co., Valley Creek being the dividing line. A stone bridge spans the stream a hundred yards west of the intersection of the two roads; and in the middle of the bridge on either side may be observed a stone which marks the county line.

The present population is between three and four hundred. The village, considerably scattered, contains about fifty dwelling houses, three hotels, three churches, two schoolhouses, a P. O. S. of A. hall, with public library, two general stores, a souvenir shop, a barber shop, a woolen yarn factory, a blacksmith shop, a sand-stone crusher, an establishment for bottling spring water, a post office, and the railway station. The post office is in Chester County, the railway station in Montgomery Co.

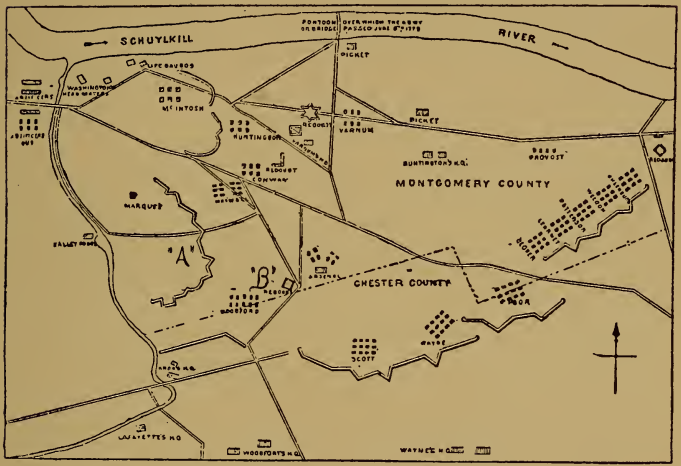
Among its buildings are many ancient and quaint-looking stone structures, some of which date back to the period of the Revolution. Some, however, which are

represented on current post cards as "Old Barracks," date no farther back than the early half of the last century.

At the time of the encampment the neighborhood naturally was but sparsely settled. The encampment was located on the surrounding hills, principally in Montgomery County, but extending into Chester County on the south and west.

THE ENCAMPMENT

The troops under the immediate command of General Washington were those comprised in what was designated as the Middle department of the



PLAN OF WORKS OF THE VALLEY FORGE ENCAMPMENT.

Continental Army — the Northern and Southern departments being commanded separately by generals appointed to the position by Congress, but subject to the Commander-in-Chief.

In all respects Washington's was the department preeminent.

In emphasis of this in addressing his men on one occasion he said : "The General wishes the troops to

consider that this is the Grand American Army and that of course great things are expected of it."

OUTLINE OF ENCAMPMENT

In "Futhey and Cope's History of Chester County" is given the following outline description of the encampment:

"The encampment was partly in Tredyffrin township, the line between Chester and Montgomery Counties running through the encampment. The headquarters of Lafayette, Wayne, Knox and Woodford were in Tredyffrin, as was also the camps of the forces of Wayne and Scott, and a part of Woodford's and Poor's.

The encampment was about two miles in length, its eastern extremity resting near the present site of Port Kennedy; and stretching in a semi-circle to the northwest as far as the Gulph road were the Brigades of Muhlenberg, Patterson, Learned, Weeden and Glover. Continuing west of the road were the Brigades of Poor, Wayne and Scott. North of the intersection of two small roads was General Woodford, and a short distance from him was stationed Knox's Artillery. From Knox parallel with Valley Creek extended a line of entrenchments from which abatis stretched to the east to a point near the ford now known as Sullivan's Crossing. The crossing was defended by a large star-shaped redoubt, and below this redoubt was placed the command of General Varnum. Between the abatis and a line of redoubts on the north were Huntington, Maxwell, and Conway. The Brigade of McIntosh [1] and Washington's Life Guards were stationed in the northwest portion of the

[1] Page 108.

camp, below Valley Creek, on an eminence near the river. West of the creek near the Schuylkill were the Artificers. Excluding the last-named detachment, which was in the present Schuylkill township, the camp was bounded on the east and north by the Schuylkill river, on the south and west by a range of hills, and on the west by Valley Creek."

The winter of 1777–8 was one of unusual severity, and by the 19th of December, which marked the arrival of the troops at Valley Forge, the severe weather had already set in.[1]

With only tents in the meantime to shelter them from wintry wind and snow, and with but scant supply of blankets and clothing, the men nevertheless gave themselves heroically to the work of establishing their quarters.

The first undertaking was not, as one might imagine, the fortification of the camp against approach from the enemy, but the more humane one—the erection of log cabins or huts to take the place as speedily as possible of the cheerless tents for the men; the throwing up of entrenchments and the construction of earth forts and redoubts for the defence of the encampment came later.[2]

Prizes were offered to the soldiers by the Commander-in-Chief for rapid construction, and best method of roofing, and everything was done to stimulate activity in the work.[3]

The huts, 14 x 16 feet in dimensions, were made to accommodate 12 private soldiers, and were arranged in rows, or streets. The officers were housed in similar quarters, but with less crowding, according to their rank, the generals each having a hut to himself. Each

[1] Page 106. [2] Page 64. [3] Page 107.

hut had a fireplace with log and clay chimney at the end opposite the entrance, and the bunks were arranged on the sides in tiers. Two small windows, with oiled paper for glass, admitted the light. The chinks between the logs were filled with clay, or mortar.

Straw, supported by stakes or poles, was the material principally used for roofing, but it was hard to obtain, and for a time the use of the tents for roof-covering was

PARK GUARD HOUSE

resorted to. Straw also was needed as bedding for the bunks, and in order to secure an adequate supply Washington was obliged to issue an order to the farmers of the surrounding territory, requiring them to complete the work of threshing their grain before a specified time, otherwise the grain would be forcibly taken for the Army's use and settled for only as straw.

The erection of seven or eight hundred such huts, with many larger buildings for Commissary, Artificer,

and hospital purposes, together with suitable stabling for the horses, was the task to which the half-clad, half-provisioned men were obliged to apply themselves—a task which lingered on their hands through half the dreary winter.[1]

A smoke nuisance, resulting from the burning of wood in the many fires of the camp, was the cause of serious annoyance much of the time, affecting unfavorably not only the eyes and throats of the soldiers, but their patience and temper as well. The prevalence, moreover, of bad sanitary conditions, unavoidable except by the most rigid enforcement of camp regulations, was a menace still more serious.

Sickness and disease, including fever and small-pox, soon invaded the camp, and death, with the solemn military burial ceremony, became an every-day occurrence. Fully 3000, it is estimated, died during the six months of the encampment.

At the beginning of this period fourteen brigades of troops, representing a maximum of 17,000 men, were encamped within the lines. The precise number was 11,089, of which at that time 2898, according to Washington's report to Congress, December 23d, "were unfit for duty, because they were barefoot and otherwise naked." As weeks wore on the number of men fit for service was still further reduced by exposure, lack of provisions, desertion, sickness and death to the pitiable figure of 5012.[2]

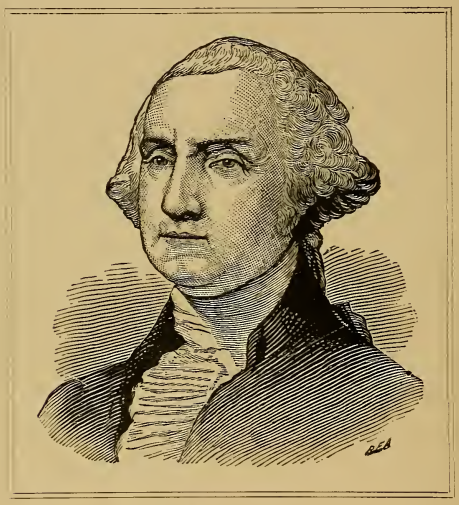
THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

To form some conception of the burden which rested upon the mind and heart of the Commander-in-Chief

[1] Page 72. [2] Pages 83-89.

during the progress of these months of toil, hardship, and suffering, requires but little brilliancy of imagination.

Always profoundly sympathetic in his attitude toward his men, his sympathy during these dark days was rendered the keener, and its reciprocal effect the weightier, from a sense of his inability to furnish needed relief.



GEORGE WASHINGTON

When we have added to this the strain of his multitudinous and diversified official labors, what he endured from the criminal apathy and inaction of Congress, the blundering stupidity of the Commissary Department, the malignity of private and public criticism, the outcropping of bitter envy and jealousy in some of his subordinate officers, the secret hatching of high-handed conspiracy to deprive him of the Army's command, and

other causes of aggravation quite as noteworthy, there is given us some conception of the by no means enviable task which during these six months constituted the lot of Gen. Washington.

It is here also, as we witness his patient, placid and resolute spirit in the midst of it all, that we catch a glimpse of the colossal stature of the man, soldier and statesman, in whom were centered the hopes and fortune of the United States in the struggle for independence.[1]

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

But the picture, though a dark one, had its lights as well as shadows.

The men had their seasons of out-door sport and recreation, and not infrequently some private hut was the scene of uproarious merriment and boisterous hilarity. Innocent games were encouraged for amusement, and while cards and dice were forbidden, as leading to gambling, other means were found or invented with which to while away in pleasure the hours in which the men were not on duty, or taking their needed rest. The officers also had their fetes and entertainments, the few ladies of the camp, conspicuously the wives of Generals Knox and Greene, contributing their share to the brilliancy and success of such occasions. Washington and his wife were sometimes present at these as guests of honor. By visiting the huts, also, and ministering in various ways to the needs of the sick and unfortunate men, these good ladies, with Martha Washington in the lead, while in camp, did much to relieve the gloom and hardship of the dreary winter.

[1] Page 117.

The camp also now and then had its gala days, or days of great general rejoicing. Such was the 5th of May, when the news reached camp that France had acknowledged the independence of the young republic, and had formed with her a treaty of commerce and friendly alliance. As the news spread through the encampment loud and prolonged shouts and cheers shook the forests that shrouded the hills; and the day following, a day set apart for special thanksgiving to Almighty God in honor of the event, salutes were fired, and by direction of the Commander-in-Chief the whole army shouted: "Huzzah for the King of France!"

The coming of spring with its genial weather had the effect also of infusing new heart and hope into both men and officers, and in spite of the sickness and death that prevailed in the weeks that followed life in camp took on a more cheery aspect. Men who for lack of blankets and clothing had been obliged at times to sit up all night by the fire, to keep from freezing, might now be seen knocking the clay or mortar from the chinks between the logs of their huts to let in the warm air; while picket service and the usual round of out-door duty, no longer a dreaded task, became a welcome exercise.

EVACUATION

From the middle of May the troops were held subject to marching orders contingent upon the movements of the enemy. Finally on the 18th of June report reached headquarters that Gen. Clinton and his troops (Howe having been recalled) were evacuating Philadelphia, and on that and the following day Washington, who had been anticipating such a move, broke camp

and with his entire army started in pursuit.[1] Crossing the Schuylkill at Fatland ford and Sullivan's bridge, they pushed hastily toward the city, arriving there as the last of the British were making their way across the Delaware towards Gloucester. Thus came to an end the notable winter's encampment at Valley Forge.

In less than ten days also came the vigorous blow given by Washington to Clinton's army on the plains of Monmouth, N. J., making the 28th of June, 1778, a day memorable in the annals of freedom, inspiring the colonies with renewed confidence and hope, and incidentally demonstrating that the crucial experiences of the army during the six months' encampment with its opportunity for military training had not been without disciplinary effect.

[1] Page 81.

PARK AND VILLAGE

THE land upon which the main part of the Encampment was located is now State property, having been acquired piece at a time, the first in 1893, and under the direction and supervision of a special Commission appointed June 8, 1893, has been formed into a public reservation, entitled: "The Valley Forge Park." This is situated chiefly on the highlands on the eastern, or Montgomery side of Valley Creek. It comprises about 500 acres, taking in the old forts, entrenchments, etc., and contains about 15 or 20 miles of fine roadway and boulevard, which through winding and diversified route directs the course of the visitor to the various points and objects of interest, treating him the while to a magnificent panorama of landscape view and vista which it were impossible adequately to describe. The polite park guard, also, in grey uniform, may be found at every turn in the way to give direction or information to pedestrian or other visitor.

ENTRANCE TO PARK

Entrance may be made to the Park either by way of the boulevard leading directly up the hill eastward from the railway station, where a memorial arch may soon be erected ($100,000 having been recommended for this and another to Congress, February, 1910), or by going westward a square, which brings the visitor to Washington's

headquarters and Valley Green, thence southward a square to Washington Inn and the Old Forge in the heart of the Village, thence up the hill eastward by way of the Gulph Road, the route of the trolley.

Coaches during the summer season are always in waiting at the station on the arrival of trains; but should the visitor prefer, a coach for the present may be dispensed with, until a great deal has been taken in which can be easily and more satisfactorily seen on foot. A carriage if desired may then be procured for the trip through the Park, obtainable at the station or the Washington Inn.

The latter course is especially recommended to visitors who wish to see the most, and obtain a satisfactory idea of the place in a limited time.

WHAT TO SEE IN THE VILLAGE

Under the head of points and objects of interest in the *Village* the following are specially noted:

The Valley Green,
Washington's Headquarters,
The Washington Inn,
The Old Forge,
Site of the Artificers' Camp,
The P. O. S. of A. Hall,
The Post Office,
The Methodist Church,
The Mansion House,
The Baptist Church,
Steuben's Headquarters,
Colonial Springs,
Old Woolen Mill,
Valley Forge Inn,
The Washington Spring,
Old Forge Site.

THE VALLEY GREEN

Or Recreation Ground, comprising several acres extending along, and including, the Valley Creek, from the railroad arch near its mouth southward to the stone bridge on Gulph road—added to the Park in 1909.

Facing directly on the Valley Green at its northern entrance, and near the station—a well-preserved two and a half story stone building with kitchen addition—was the home in Revolutionary times of Isaac Potts,[1] who invited General Washington to occupy it as his headquarters after he had been quartered for a time in an army tent or markee—was built not later than 1758—contains the original doors, windows, locks, etc., and some relics. Open daily, Sunday included, from 7 A.M. until 6 P.M. Admission free. A care-taker will be found in waiting to direct the visitor and answer his innumerable questions.

THE WASHINGTON INN

Facing the green at its southern entrance on the Gulph road—was for many years the private residence of the Rogers family—converted into a hotel in 1878—includes a small building which stood on the site during the Encampment, known as the "bake-house," where large quantities of bread were baked for the soldiers. It was at that time probably the residence of Colonel Dewees. The old part constitutes the hotel dining room. The bake-ovens were in the cellar, and were removed only a few years ago. The hotel is noted for its unrivalled entertainment. See page 51.

THE OLD FORGE

Is situated a stone's throw west of the Washington Inn, on the Gulph road, at the western end of the bridge. It is a reproduction in accordance with available data; is on private property; erected as a matter of public interest, and with patriotic ceremony was thrown open

[1] Page 109.

THE OLD FORGE (Reproduced)

to the public July 4, 1907. It is built entirely of materials taken from an old Revolutionary ruin, and contains a facsimile reproduction of the old-time machinery. Admission is free. The original forge from which the place derived its name stood half a mile farther up on the same side of the creek. This was destroyed in a raid by British soldiers nearly three months before the Washington Encampment, and was never rebuilt.[1]

SITE OF ARTIFICERS' CAMP[2]

This was the strip of ground on the western, or Chester Co., side of the creek, extending northward from the foothills back of the Old Forge to the railroad or Schuylkill river. The soldiers' huts were on the elevations, the work-shops in the valley. The artificers were the soldier artisans or mechanics and with the sappers and miners, worked in conjunction with the army engineers. Here near the Old Forge, on both sides of the Gulph road, stood their work-shops. Here plans and materials for the army's emergency work were developed, here their wagons, cannon and muskets were repaired, and their horses shod.

On this plot of ground, in the rear of the Old Forge, may be observed the ruins of the BROOKE EVANS GUN FACTORY, established in 1821, from which twenty thousand muskets were manufactured. Though not a Revolutionary memento, it is an object of local interest.[3]

THE P. O. S. OF A. HALL

Situated diagonally across the way westward from the Old Forge, a comparatively modern building, erected

[1] Page 90. [2] Page 78. [3] Page 94.

in 1874, containing suitable rooms for the use of the Order, and a hall for public gatherings. The latter also furnishes house room for the "Mathews Free Library," established in 1895 through the benefactions of the E. J. Mathews family, former owners of the Valley Forge farm. The library contains about 800 volumes, and is open Tuesday evenings.[1] The building is also the recognized headquarters of the Valley Forge "Fife and Drum Corps."

THE POST OFFICE

The first building on the left up the road westward—for many years the home of the Thropp family. At first it contained but two rooms, built not later than 1815 by John Workizer. Isaiah Thropp, son-in-law of Mr. Workizer, obtained the place in 1822 and used it partly as a store, the first in the village. Here he continued business successfully for fifty years, and reared a large and honorable family. In the meantime, the house was enlarged by him to its present proportions. Later the building on the right of the store was bought by Mr. Thropp and used as the family residence.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

A small stone building about a square beyond the Post Office, erected in 1837—lot given by Isaiah Thropp. Church formed in 1836—first preacher probably Rev. D. Shields, who preached for the M. E. Church at Phoenixville in 1839, and the year following.

THE MANSION HOUSE

Situated two or three hundred yards beyond the M. E. Church, on the opposite, or north, side of the

[1] Page 113.

road—used as a hospital during the Encampment—was the home of the Workizer family and a wayside inn —was then two and a half stories high, and two-thirds its present size—original building included on first floor what is now the dining room, kitchen and bar. It contains some original woodwork, hinges, locks, etc. The eastern end was erected in 1850, and the mansard roof added in 1875. Under its present owner it continues to afford comfortable entertainment for man and beast.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

A stone structure of recent date, erected in 1901 on site of former building built in 1835. Contains in outside walls some interesting memorial tablets. On one of these is given the following extract from Washington's letter to the Baptists, written in May, 1789, just after his election to the Presidency of the Nation.

"The Baptists throughout America have been uniformly and almost unanimously the firm friends of civil liberty, and the persevering promoters of the glorious Revolution."

The Church was organized at the Valley Forge School-house, June 29, 1834, with thirty-one members, Rev. S. Seigfreid preaching from Acts xxvi, 28. Its first pastor was Rev. J. G. Collam. The ground, one acre, for lot and grave-yard was donated by John Workizer.

The little log house across the way, as near as can be learned, was built not earlier than 1840.

The two roads diverging near this point lead each to Phoenixville (French Creek), about four miles distant, the left-hand road leading by way of Williams' Corners. The trolley line follows the latter route to Williams'

Corners and thence runs to Phoenixville by way of Corner stores.

Following the right-hand, or Gulph, road the tourist, when within a mile or more of Phoenixville, will pass on the right "Bull Tavern" and "Moore Hall"; and in Phoenixville, at the intersection of this road (Nutt's Ave.) with Bridge St., will come to "Fountain Inn." All three are places of historic interest in connection with the Encampment. All at present are used as private residences, and to some extent have been transformed.

STEUBEN'S HEADQUARTERS

Reached by taking the road just east of the Methodist Church, and following it up into the glen about a quarter of a mile—forms a part of the home of General B. F. Fisher, a large Gothic brick building that sits conspicuously on the slope of the mountain. The original house known for many years as the Slab Tavern was a small two-story stone structure about fifteen feet square, and now constitutes a rear portion of the present building.

At first Von Steuben's quarters were in a camp hut on the Montgomery Co. side, in connection with which an interesting incident is told of the General's butler. The morning after the arrival in camp of the distinguished soldier and his attendants, the chef, having asked to be shown the kitchen in order that he might prepare breakfast, was directed to an open space in the rear of the hut where a fire-place had been erected with a few stones, over which hung one or two smoky iron pots. When told this was the kitchen, the haughty butler, without regard to ceremony, straightway surrendered his job, and gathering together his belongings decamped at once for more civilized regions. Steuben says he left him with

the remark that : "where he had nothing on which to display his art it was of no consequence who pulled the string"—meaning the cord of the spit. The incident may have had its weight in leading the General to look up more desirable quarters, and finally to decide upon the little house in the glen on the Chester Co. side.

THE COLONIAL SPRINGS

Situated directly across the run from Steuben's headquarters—famous springs from which in the moun-

COLONIAL SPRINGS

tain's side have bubbled forth a copious stream of pure and sparkling water since long before the recollection of the oldest inhabitant—formerly styled the "Goodfyr Springs," from the idea of the neighboring inhabitants that its waters were good for the correction of a number of human ailments, particularly kidney affections. The chemical analysis shows it to be an absolutely pure water; and in 1900 a company was formed who leased the

property, and have since been bottling and shipping the water in large quantities for private delivery in Philadelphia. Visitors are always welcome, and will be amply repaid by a visit to the place.

THE OLD WOOLEN MILL

Situated below the dam on the east, or Montgomery Co., side of the creek. The building was commenced in 1814 by John Rogers and Joshua Malin, cousins, and was used for a time as an establishment for the manufacture of hardware, including saws, files, shovels, spades, etc. Afterwards, about 1820, it was enlarged by Mr. Rogers and converted into a cotton mill. Later it was again enlarged, this time by Charles H. Rogers, son of John Rogers, and changed into a woolen mill. During the Civil War cloth and blankets were manufactured in it for the Union Army. Prior to 1882 Isaac Smith was for many years the successful operator. From the latter date till 1909 the mill remained idle. It is now occupied for the manufacture of woolen yarn. The present dam was built in 1906, the one prior to that having been down and washed away for a number of years.

VALLEY FORGE INN

Across the road from the mill—built about 1850—first occupied as a wholesale and retail liquor place—afterwards, till the closing of the mill, in 1882, as a general store, kept for many years by John Rowan. In 1909 it was remodeled and converted to its present use. Connected with this place, on the adjoining hill-top, is a private picnic ground, and boats for pleasure are kept on the lake.

About half a mile up the creek from the mill—a resort especially for the sentimentalist, made doubly attractive since 1908 by the artistic work of the Park Commission. From the guard house near the spring a convenient path leads up the hillside through the

THE WASHINGTON SPRING

clearing to the boulevard on the summit, bringing the tourist in close proximity to Fort Washington and the Mount Joy Observatory.

OLD FORGE SITE

A hundred or more yards beyond the spring, but on the opposite side of the creek.[1] The walk or drive around the lake is one of the most inviting and picturesque to be found in the neighborhood.

[1] Pages 90–94.

With markers everywhere conspicuously placed throughout the grounds to direct the visitor to the various points and objects of interest, and with the polite Park guard in evidence at every turn in the way ready to impart information for the asking, but little more would seem to be necessary here than that a list be furnished of the more important objects to be visited, with their general location indicated, and such information or comment added as the case may require.

The Most Important Things to See Are:

The Entrenchments,
Fort Washington
Fort Huntington
Star Redoubt,
Waterman Monument,
Wayne Monument,
Camp School House,
Soldier Huts (Reproduced),
Varnum's and Knox's Headquarters,
Hospital Hut,
Bake Ovens,
Soldiers' Graves.

A visit should also be made to the Washington Memorial Chapel, and last, but not least, time and strength should be reserved for climbing the steps of the Mount Joy Observatory.

If entrance is made to the Park by way of the boulevard leading up from the station, in ascending the hill, a magnificent view is obtained of the river with the region beyond, while the camp site of Washington's Life Guard will be passed on the hill-side at the right.[1]

THE ENTRENCHMENTS

Are reached on the crest of the hill, and may be readily traced. They consist of a ditch or trench, originally about 6 feet wide, 3 feet deep, with mound about 4 feet

[1] Page 76.

in height. Two lines of these, an inner and outer, partially encircled the Encampment. The trench was constructed, in places at least, with stakes or pikes projecting outward from the mound, and with an abatis of brush, stumps, etc., extending the distance of extreme musket range in front. The inner line will appear again and again in following the boulevard. Persons wishing to visit the Waterman monument and the Memorial Chapel at this stage will take the Port Kennedy road leading to the left. In doing so, near Fort Huntington

THE PARK PICNIC GROUNDS

Will appear on the right. In the latter, every provision has been made by the Park Commission for the comfort and enjoyment of parties, large or small, who come to the Park for a day's outing and self-entertainment. Regret will be felt, however, especially by persons with little children or heavy baskets, that the location of the grounds is not more convenient to the trolley or railway station.

FORT HUNTINGTON

Is one of the principal forts of the camp, and happily little has been done to it in the way of attempted restoration. The traverse is 100 feet in length, while the top of the earthwork in some places is 20 feet from the bottom of the fosse. Nearby on the hill-side was the site of Huntington's brigade.

VARNUM'S HEADQUARTERS

Also on the right, is but a short distance beyond—a stone structure, two and a half stories in height, but now

LINE OF ENTRENCHMENTS

considerably changed and enlarged from the original building. On both sides of the road were the huts of Varnum's brigade.

THE STAR REDOUBT

Is reached a few hundred yards farther beyond on the left. It was a small earth fort erected chiefly to cover the approach from the other side of the Schuylkill by way of Fatland ford and Sullivan's bridge, a short distance directly opposite. The crossing by way of the ford was to the upper end of Jenkins' island, down the island to the lower end, and thence to the other side. At the lower end was Sullivan's bridge. The ford and bridge were reached by a road, now a lane, leading to the left, the continuation of Washington Lane, but not open to the public.

WATERMAN MONUMENT

Is situated a short distance beyond the redoubt on the right. It is a plain granite shaft, 50 feet in height, erected by the Daughters of the Revolution to the memory of the soldiers who died at Valley Forge, near the site of a stone which marks the grave of John Waterman, the only known grave on the Encampment. On the plinth in front is the following inscription: "To the Soldiers Of Washington's Army Who Sleep At Valley Forge, 1777–78. Erected By The Daughters Of The Revolution." On the reverse side the following: "Near This Spot Lies Lieutenant John Waterman. Died April 23, 1778, Whose Grave Alone Of All His Comrades Was Marked." The monument was unveiled and dedicated October 19, 1901, the ground upon which it stands having been donated by the late I. Heston Todd.

Stands a few rods distant on the opposite side of the road from the monument in the edge of the grove. It is a building of elaborate architectural design, being erected by the Protestant Episcopal denomination: "In memory

WATERMAN MONUMENT

of Washington and Patriot Churchmen who served their country in the struggle for liberty."

The style of architecture of the main building is perpendicular Gothic. The architects were Field and

Medary, of Philadelphia. The first service in the Chapel was held on Washington's birthday, 1905. When completed it will be a memorial worthy of the great denomination in which Washington, as is claimed, was a regular communicant.

The plan of the Chapel includes a group of buildings, among which is a Patriot's Hall, marked by a number of unique features. A start also has been made in the way of collecting historical documents and relics as the foundation of a library and museum. Service is held in the building every Sunday. During the summer season it is open every day of the week, and visitors are cordially welcomed.

Rev. W. Herbert Burk, of Norristown, is the minister in charge, and to his efforts largely the credit is due for the work that has been accomplished.

To the left of the Chapel in the woods the fac-simile of a Camp Hut will be noted with interest. It was the first of the hut reproductions erected, and was built by the Daughter's of the Revolution in May, 1905; dedicated June 24th. The site was presented by I. Heston Todd, and is presumed to be the location of one of the huts of Varnum's brigade. Many of the guardhouses throughout the Park are modeled after the same plan.

The visitor who has come thus far over the route we have taken, will now, in order to see the remaining and principal portion of the Encampment, be obliged to retrace his steps to the boulevard we left prior to reaching Fort Huntington, and to follow the boulevard up around the hill to the left.

From the crest of the hill another view of Fort Huntington, with the Waterman Monument in the distance,

WASHINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

may be had, and from thence five minutes' walk will bring us to the Gulph road at its intersection with the boulevard.

This point is the one at which entrance to the Park is made from the village by the other route—the route adopted by the trolley—which passes up the Gulph road from the bridge, near the Old Forge and Washington Inn.[1]

CAMP SCHOOL HOUSE

May be viewed or visited from this point, going eastward. It is situated a few hundred yards down the Gulph road on the right, at the intersection of this road with Washington lane. It was built in 1705—was used as a hospital during the encampment, and was repaired and put in its present condition by the Park Commission in 1907. The interior has been refitted, and furnished with a fac-simile reproduction of the old-time furniture.

FORT WASHINGTON

Is reached by following the boulevard to the right at the distance of about a quarter of a mile. This earthwork has been restored in part by the Commission in order that the visitor may obtain a correct idea of its original appearance. It is not of large size, its longest side being less than one hundred feet. The traverse, or bank, which divides it into two parts, is about seventy-five feet in length. This was one of the most important defences of the Encampment as may be seen from its location. The observation platforms, both here and at Fort Huntington, are, of course, the work of the Commis-

[1] Page 28.

sion, having been added to give the visitor a satisfactory view of the outline of the earth-works.

MT. JOY OBSERVATORY

In close proximity to Fort Washington, may be conveniently visited from this point. It is a graceful iron structure 75 feet in height, erected in 1906 on the summit

CAMP SCHOOL HOUSE

of Mount Joy. From the top of the observatory, which is reached by 120 easy steps, a magnificent and extensive view of the Park and of the surrounding country may be had, which will more than pay for the trouble and exertion of climbing.

To assist the visitor in correctly establishing his bearings, a horizontal disk has been provided at the top,

giving a chart of the direction (with distance) of various surrounding localities of historic interest.

WAYNE MONUMENT

Situated another quarter of a mile away, may be reached either by continuing to follow the right line

MT. JOY OBSERVATORY

boulevard, or, if the visitor be afoot, by taking the shorter route down the hill past Fort Washington, and across the field eastward. The monument is in the form of an equestrian statue, of great merit, erected by the Com-

FORT WASHINGTON

monwealth of Pennsylvania and dedicated June 20, 1908, to one of her most distinguished sons who fought in the Revolution. Anthony Wayne was born in Chester County, Jan. 1, 1745, and died Dec. 15, 1796. He was Brigadier General in the Continental Army from Feb. 1, 1777, to Nov. 3, 1783; was appointed Major General in 1783, and Commander-in-Chief of the United States

ANTHONY WAYNE MONUMENT

Army, May 5, 1792, remaining in command till the time of his death. These facts, with others, are recorded on the monument. Its cost, including dedicatory and other expenses, was $35,000—The sculptor was Mr. Henry K. Bush-Brown. At the services of dedication Hon. S. W. Pennypacker delivered the oration; and the Com-

WASHINGTON INN

mission appointed by the Legislature to have charge of the work consisted of J. P. Nicholson, R. M. Cadwalader and J. A. Herman.

The Hospital Hut (a reproduction), the Bake-ovens, the Burying Ground, and other objects and places of interest, will be found in the immediate vicinity of the monument, to all of which the visitor's attention and steps will be readily directed by the markers.

Should there be a desire to look upon the General Knox Headquarters, and get a view of the Valley Forge farm, the charming summer home of Secretary of State, Philander C. Knox, the pleasure may conveniently be enjoyed at this time, as they are but a short distance away. The house known as the Lafayette Headquarters is a little more distant in the same direction; but it should be remembered that all of these are private property and are not open to visitation by the public.

Should the visitor, after viewing the monument, desire to go farther in the direction of Port Kennedy, a number of objects, though of less importance, including state markers, etc., will be found to gratify interest.

The conspicuous object in the distance having two white pillars is the Pennsylvania marker erected on the site of the Pennsylvania troops.

SECTION TWO

A PREFATORY SUGGESTION

AS an essential aid to a correct appreciation of incidents and events in the Revolutionary period it is important that the reader should to a certain extent endeavor to place himself in the environment of those early days. A few facts, therefore, are here noted which may be helpful to the person in obtaining an advantageous view point.

In the year 1776 the conceded domain of the United States was not more than half a million square miles. To-day it is nearly four million. Its population then was about two and a half millions—in other words, about a million more than the number of people now contained within the limits of Philadelphia, at present the third city in size in the Union. At that time Philadelphia's population was about 25,000.

In Revolutionary times there were but few public highways, and these generally were in poor condition. Travel and transportation between distant points were accomplished entirely by means of stage and pack-wagon, drawn in most cases by mules and asses.

There were then not only no telegraphs or telephones, but no railroads, no steamboats, no canals. These, with all the later wonders in the development of applied science, have come since that day. The first canals in the United States, two very short ones, were constructed in 1792. Navigation by steam, with Robert Fulton as

pioneer, began in 1807. His experimental boat, the Clermont, 100 ft. long, 12 ft. in width and 7 in depth, was announced to make the trip from New York to Albany "against wind and tide" in 36 hours (about 4 miles an hour). The fare for the trip, including "provisions, berth and accommodations," was $7.00.

The first railroad in the United States, three miles in length, was completed in 1827, horse power being used. The first locomotive came two years later. The Phila. & Reading was built through Valley Forge in 1837, and was opened for traffic July 16, 1838.

In 1776 there were only 50 post-offices in the country. Mails were very light, and were carried by postmen on horseback, and sometimes on foot. That year authority was given to employ extra post riders between the armies from their headquarters to Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin was then Postmaster General, and the accounts for the whole Post-Office Department for over a year were contained in a small book composed of two quires of foolscap, now kept as an interesting relic in the archives at Washington.

The newspapers in existence at the beginning of the war were few and small, and were issued weekly, semi-weekly or tri-weekly. The first daily paper issued in the country was the "American Daily Advertizer"—what is now the "North American"—established in Philadelphia in 1784, the year after the war closed. The printing presses used were of the Franklin type, in which the pressure force was applied by a screw, and the ink by large balls. An expert workman on the machine could produce about 50 impressions an hour. Books, in consequence, were a rarity, while magazine literature

was undreamed of. Various political subjects were at times discussed in pamphlets.

At the time of the Revolution teaching in the common schools was very meager, and remained so for thirty years after. Only reading, spelling, and arithmetic were regularly taught.

Wood was the material almost universally used for fuel, and the tallow dip or sperm oil lamp was the only means of illumination.

Until near the close of the war there were no banking institutions in the United States. By that time the paper money authorized by Congress had so depreciated that the price of commodities and labor became almost fabulous. A barrel of flour was sold for 20 pounds Sterling, and a bushel of potatoes for 15 pounds. A journeyman blacksmith was paid 8 pounds per day, and the price for shoeing a horse all round was 4 pounds ($5.00 a shoe). The first bank in the United States, the "Bank of North America" was under such conditions established in 1781 as a financial aid to the Government.

In the sphere of agriculture a no less primitive condition of things prevailed. Indian corn, tobacco, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes and hay were the staple articles of the farm. The seed was sown and the whole crop harvested by manual labor. The plow, harrow, and other implements used, were of the rudest kind. The hay was cut with a scythe and turned and gathered with a hand rake and wooden fork. The grain was cut with a sickle, threshed with a flail, or the treading of horses, and winnowed by means of a large clam-shaped fan of wickerwork manipulated in a gentle breeze. The cultivation of cotton was in its infancy. In 1784 eight bales of cotton

sent to England from Charleston were seized by the Custom House authorities in Liverpool, on the ground that so large a quantity could not have come from the United States. Whitney's invention of the cotton gin, for separating the seed from the fiber, which gave unparalleled impetus to the industry, occurred in 1792.

Our manufactures, also, were of slight importance. The policy of England was to suppress manufacturing in her American Colonies, so as to increase her importations.

The iron industry was confined to a dozen or two furnaces and forges. Till after the war woolen and cotton fabrics were manufactured largely in the home. The hand carding device, the Irish or Dutch spinning-wheel, and the hand loom, formed a part of the equipment of every well-regulated household. In 1787 the first cotton-mill in the country was built at Beverly, Mass., and a little prior to 1791 a woolen mill was established at Hartford, Conn.

At the beginning of the war Willcox's small establishment near Philadelphia was the only paper-mill in the country. He made our first writing paper, also the thick, coarse paper on which the Continental money was printed. By the close of the war, a demand for paper having arisen in the meantime, two other mills had come into existence.

Multitudes more of such items of interest might be added, calculated to remind us that in contemplating the incidents and events of the Encampment period one must guard in many instances against considering or measuring these from the view point of our Twentieth Century civilization.

MOVEMENTS OF WASHINGTON'S ARMY JUST PRIOR TO THE ENCAMPMENT

Washington took possession of Valley Forge for his winter quarters December 19th, 1777.

A bird's-eye view of the movements of the army during the three months or more prior to this date will be of interest as forming a fitting prelude to the story of the sixth months' encampment.

The battle of Brandywine, at Chadd's ford, resulting from Washington's attempt to stay the advance of the British upon Philadelphia from by way of the Chesapeake, took place September 11th, 1777. Washington in his retreat from Brandywine fell back on Philadelphia, encamping at the Falls of Schuylkill; but, closely followed by Howe's army, September 15th he moved up the Schuylkill Valley as far as Matson's ford (Conshohocken), crossing here to the west side of the river, and, lest Howe should intercept him, pushed rapidly along the old Lancaster road in the direction of Swedes' ford (Bridgeport), encamping for the night between Warren tavern and White Horse tavern. Thence, after a considerable skirmish with the enemy, he made further retreat to Yellow Springs and Warrick furnace, leaving General Wayne at Paoli, where the latter and his men met with the fatal surprise of September 20th known as the "Paoli Massacre." From Warrick furnace Washington recrossed the Schuylkill at Parker's ford, and moving southward through Trappe came to a stop at the Perkiomen. Thence, incited by a suspicion that the plan of the British included a forced march upon Reading, a depot of Continental supplies, in order to protect the latter he retraced his steps and hastened up the valley

to Pottsgrove (Pottstown), encamping there for several days. The British, however, extended their march northward only as far as French Creek (Phoenixville), encamping along the Gulph road all the way from Valley Forge. At the latter place they committed a number of depredations, notably the destruction of the old forge and possibly a building or two farther down the creek. They then crossed the Schuylkill September 23rd at Fatland ford and Gordon's ford (Phoenixville), encamped for the night on Stony creek (Norristown), and thence proceeded to Germantown. Two days later, September 26th, Lord Cornwallis took possession of Philadelphia.

In the meantime Washington, learning what had happened, returned to the Perkiomen, encamped for a few days to rest his army at Pennypacker's Mills (Schwenksville), and thence proceeded to Skippack and Worcester. From the latter point, early on the morning of October 3rd, the army moved to attack the British forces at Germantown, the Battle of Germantown occurring the following day.

This encounter ending in failure Washington retreated to the camp on the Perkiomen, but after a few days' rest was again on the march toward Philadelphia, halting for a week at a time at convenient places, and finally November 2nd going into camp at Whitemarsh, where the army remained for more than a month.

During this respite, December 4th a night attack was planned on the encampment by Howe, but timely news of the matter having been given to Washington, he was on the alert and the attack was successfully resisted, though the threatening manoeuvres of the enemy were continued till the morning of the 8th.

December 12th the army broke camp at Whitemarsh and began the march toward Valley Forge, which had been selected as a suitable site for winter quarters. The plan was to cross the Schuylkill at Matson's ford (Conshohocken), but on reaching this, and discovering a force under Cornwallis in possession of the Gulph road on the other side, the army moved up to Swedes' ford (Norristown), crossed there during the night of the 12th and morning of the 13th, and took up a position at Gulph Mills. Here they remained for several days, when the final march of about 6 miles was made to Valley Forge. During all these movements Washington's men suffered severely from a lack of blankets and proper clothing, a thousand or more of them having made the journey from Whitemarsh in frost and snow with bare feet.

LIFE IN THE ENCAMPMENT

Two days before the arrival of the Army at Valley Forge, while encamped at Gulph Mills, Washington addressed a message to the troops in which he thanked the officers and men for the patience and fortitude they had shown in the fatigues of the year's campaign, and urged upon them as they were about to go into their winter quarters to be no less patient and courageous, but to meet and surmount the difficulties before them in a manner becoming the soldier's profession, and worthy of the sacred cause in which they were engaged. The conditions in prospect, he added, were not what he could have wished for his faithful men, but they could be assured that he himself would share in the hardships and partake of every inconvenience.

The day following, December 18th, had been appointed by Congress as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer, and was observed in camp by the holding of divine services by the Chaplains with their several corps and brigades.

The 19th of December marked the arrival of the troops on the site chosen for their winter encampment. The first important order issued was: that next day the Major General in command (Lord Stirling), accompanied by the engineers, were to view the ground attentively and fix upon the proper spot for hutting, so as to render the camp as strong and inaccessible as possible. The engineers then were to mark out the ground indicating the location for the huts of each Brigade, and afterwards to direct the Field officers appointed to superintend the work of building. The corps of engineers was under the command of the French officer, Brigadier-General Louis Lebeque Duportail.

At morning parade the next day the Commander-in-Chief had a bit of gratifying news to communicate; it was this: "The safe arrival at Portsmouth of a French ship, with 40 brass cannon, 4 pounders, carriage complete, 19 nine-inch mortars, 500 nine-inch bombs, 2000 lbs. of balls, intrenching tools, 4,120 stands of arms, a quantity of powder, and 61,061 lbs. of sulphur."

The satisfaction with which this bit of news was communicated by the General, and the enthusiasm with which it was received by the troops, can readily be imagined when we remember that the Army for its war materials was at this time almost wholly dependent upon purchases made in France, and that getting them into the country was attended by the extreme risk of capture in running the British blockade.

The arms furnished by the French government to the United States during the war were principally of the old model of 1763, commonly known by the name "Charleville musket." It was a flint-lock musket, caliber 72; the barrel was fastened with three iron bands to stock; mountings of iron.

REVEILLE

The hour appointed for this changed naturally with the seasons. The following was the general order:

The Reveille to beat at day-break, the Troop at eight in the morning, the Retreat at sunset, and Tattoo at nine in the evening.

To render this duty uniform, the drummers call to beat at the right of the first line and answered throughout the line, then through the second and corps of artillery beginning at the left. The Reserve shall follow the second line; immediately upon this three rolls to begin and run through in like manner as the call. Then all the drums of the army at the heads of their respective corps shall go through their regular beats, ceasing upon the right, which will be a sign for the whole to cease.

On December 25th, in order to replenish the Commissary cupboard, what might be termed a Christmas Party was gotten up—a Christmas Foraging Party. The order convening it provided that it be composed of "an active careful subaltern and twelve men from each brigade, who, with an assistant commissary, were to go to such places as the Commissary-General, or his Assistant in camp, should direct, for the purpose of collecting flour, grain, cattle or pork for the army." The men chosen to make up the party were to be "such as were

of able body, and knew how to thrash." They were "to take with them their arms, blankets and necessaries and under the command of Major Miller were to parade in the morning at 9 o'clock at the Black Bull."

Almost concurrent with the laying out of the ground for "hutting" was the inauguration of plans for the construction of a bridge across the Schuylkill, for the purpose of connecting the camp with the territory on the east side of the river. The location decided upon was near Fatland ford, at the lower end of Jenkins' island, and the work of directing the enterprise was entrusted to Major-General Sullivan who, "obligingly" accepting was on this account excused in the meantime from general field service. It was a log bridge with swing-float section over the channel, and was probably not completed till about the first of March. As indicative of this, on the second of March a guard house was ordered built at its western end, and General Sullivan's first return to field duty as officer of the day was on the eighth of that month.

Special care was enjoined upon the guard at the bridge to see that no suspicious looking persons, or people without passes, were allowed to cross from either side. No boats also were allowed to pass without permission from the officer commanding the guard.

The bridge was termed the "New bridge," the "North bridge," and, finally, "Sullivan's bridge." It was used by the army on the eventful nineteenth of June as Washington, hastily breaking up the Valley Forge encampment, crossed the Schuylkill and proceeded toward Philadelphia, upon its evacuation by General Clinton.

From what we are able to gather concerning its later

history, it would appear that it did not long survive the period of the encampment, but was soon broken up and swept away by recurring freshets. A marker on the south side of the river, indicates the place where it formerly stood.

On New Year's day an announcement from Wilmington was made in camp to the effect that a British ship from New York had been captured in the Delaware, in which were a number of officers' wives and about 70 or 80 men. A few days later came the statement: "The Brigg taken from the enemy (and mentioned New Year's Day) is the greatest prize ever taken from them. There is Scarlet, Blue and Buff cloth sufficient to clothe all the officers of the Army; and Hats, Shirts, Stockings, Shoes, Boots, Spurs, &c., to finish complete suits for all. A petition is sent to his Excellency that this clothing may be dealt out to the Regimental officers only—at a moderate price—excluding Commissaries, Bull Drivers, &c. There are 4 or 5,000 Apelets of gold and silver—many chests of private officers' Baggage—and General Howe's Silver Plate—and Kitchen furniture, &c. This cargo was sent to clothe all the officers of the British army."

THE FORTIFICATIONS

After the work upon the soldiers' huts had become well advanced, or about the middle of January, attention was given to the matter of fortification. The works for the defense of the camp, including the double line of entrenchments, redoubts, forts, etc., were at this time marked out by the engineers, and an order from the Commander-in-Chief urged that the work be executed with all possible dispatch.

Generals Greene, Stirling and Lafayette were requested to consult with General Duportail upon the proper means and number of men necessary for its execution, and also to appoint competent officers to superintend it. Numerous orders followed, detailing officers and men from the various Brigades for the work. General Patterson consented to superintend the fortification of the left wing, and under his direction all the men and officers not on duty in the respective Brigades of this wing were to parade every morning at nine o'clock, to be employed on the work till completed. The work dragged heavily, and some of it when finished was not up to standard, as is evidenced by an order issued as late as April 3rd by the Commander-in-Chief which reads as follows: "The works of the new line being very carelessly executed in many parts, and the representations of the engineers to the officers commanding fatigue parties having hitherto been of no avail, the General calls upon the several Brigadiers to inspect the part which has been allotted to their Brigade and order the defects to be remedied, which appears to be principally owing to the weakness of the stakes, and those of the exterior face being placed too perpendicularly." An interesting hint is here given as to the mode of constructing the defenses and another in the following announcement: "As the stumps and brush in front of the line afford an excellent abatis to the approach of an enemy, it is expressly forbid that any of it should be burnt by fatiguing parties, or others, for the distance of extreme musket range in front of the line, of which all officers commanding a regiment are to take particular notice."

A CAMP STORE

With the view of providing a channel through which the country people might obtain sale for their produce, thus lessening the temptation to smuggle it through the lines to the enemy in Philadelphia, and at the same time to provide for the soldiers the opportunity of purchasing extra articles needed for their comfort, a camp market was decided upon, to be held six days in the week within or near the lines. Three different points were selected for its location, at each of which in rotation it was to be held, one day at a time—on Monday and Thursday at the "Stone Chimney Picket, east side Schuylkill," Tuesday and Friday near the North Bridge, and Wednesday and Saturday near the Adjutant-General's office. Handbills containing a list of the wares to be offered for sale, with prices affixed, were prepared and distributed both among the soldiers and the market people, the officers having this work in charge being required first "to consult with some of the more intelligent country people."

The first market was held February 9th, at the "Stone Chimney Picket," the officer in command of the picket being charged with the duty of seeing that the posted regulations were carried out. A day or two later, however, Mr. Joseph Ogden was officially announced as permanent Clerk of the market.

THE DAILY RATION

The customary daily ration while in camp consisted of 1–½ lbs. of flour or bread, 1 lb. of beef or fish, or ¾ lb. of pork, and 1 gill of whiskey or spirits—or, 1–½ lbs. of

flour or bread, ½ lb. of pork or bacon, ½ pint peas or beans, and 1 gill of whiskey or spirits.

The commissary, however, in issuing rations to the troops from time to time, was instructed to issue them agreeable to these estimates *according to the state of stores in camp;* and not infrequently, by reason of depleted stores, he was obliged to take advantage of this clause, greatly to the discomfort of the soldiers. The daily gill of whiskey, because of a scarcity of the article, was often withheld, but without perhaps any serious effect on the morals of the camp. It was invariably issued to those assigned to duties requiring extra physical effort or endurance. On New Year's Day, presumably as a bit of New Year's cheer, it was issued to all the soldiers and non-commissioned officers in camp by special order of the Commander-in-Chief.

THE SUTLERY

During the first month or two of the encampment, no provision was made for the purchase of liquors in camp, the officers being obliged to procure their supplies from outside sources. This proving inconvenient, however, and many of the soldiers showing dissatisfaction over the limiting of their allowance and obtaining liquor through illicit methods, it was deemed expedient, at a conference held over the matter by the General Officers, that a return should be made to the Sutler system, and this was restored about February 1st, after having been in disuse since November 5th. The rules at first laid down for its regulation were amended April 16th, and in the form of a general order were announced as follows:

"The Commander-in-Chief directs that only one sutler be allowed to each Brigade, who shall have one sutling booth within the limits of the Brigade, and shall sell liquors at no other, where he shall sell his liquors at the following prices to the officers and soldiers of the Brigade to which he belongs, and on no pretence to any other under penalty of having his whole stock seized, and being rendered incapable of ever serving in the army again:—

Whiskey, peach brandy, apple brandy, cordials of all kinds, and any other home-made spirits, 15/ pr. gallon, pr. quart 4/, pr. pint 2/, pr. half pint 1/3.

West India spirits, full proof, pr. quart 15/. Pr. bowl of toddy, containing half a pint of spirits 7/6. Cider 1/3 pr. quart, strong beer 2/6 pr. quart, common beer 1/ pr. quart, vinegar 2/6 pr. quart.

The sutler also is at liberty to sell leaf tobacco at 4/ pr. lb., Pig-tail at 7/6 pr. lb., and hard soap at 4/ pr. lb., but no other articles.

No persons whatsoever, besides such licensed sutlers, or commissioners sent by particular States, shall sell liquors of any kind in camp, or within seven miles of camp, under penalty of having their whole stock seized without payment for the use of the army; except that the Quartermaster General is authorized to allow one or more houses of entertainment to accommodate travellers and strangers who must be necessarily in the vicinity of the camp, the persons receiving the license for that purpose giving sufficient security not to vend their liquors to any person belonging to the army."

DINNER AT THE HEADQUARTERS

It was Washington's custom to have the Field Officers of each day take dinner with him in his private quarters. If at any time the urgency of their duties interfered with this arrangement, they were invited to dine with him the day following.

This gave him the opportunity both of acquainting himself intimately with the character of his officers, and of conferring with them upon matters of importance concerning the army or camp. P. S. Duponceau, who was one of the young officers of the army while at Valley Forge, and aid to General Steuben, referring to this custom of the Commander-in-Chief, tells us: "The General, partaking of the hardships of his brave men, was accustomed to sit down with his invited officers and others to a scanty piece of meat, with some hard bread and a few potatoes. At his house they drank the health and prosperity of the nation in humble toddy, and the luxurious dessert consisted of a plate of hickory nuts. There his fortitude and dignity always gave new spirits to his officers."

Mrs. Martha Washington also, who joined her husband at Valley Forge on February 10th, was regularly present at these gatherings while in camp and presided at the table. Of her the same officer writes: "Mrs. Washington possessing always at the head of his table her mild dignified countenance, grave yet cheerful—her countenance and manner reflected the feelings of the hero whose name she bore. Her presence inspired fortitude, and those who came to her with almost desponding hearts retired full of hope and confidence."

A MEAL IN ONE OF THE HUTS

A gentleman who was an officer in camp gives us through the pen of another, in Watson's Annals, the following peep into one of the huts at meal time: "Their table was loose planks, rough as split from the tree. One dish of wood or pewter sufficed for a mess (a dozen men). A horn spoon and tumbler of horn was lent round. Their knife was carried in the pocket. Fresh beef they could scarcely get. Of vegetables they had none, save sometimes some potatoes. Much of their diet was salted herring, which was often in bad state. Sugar, coffee, tea, etc., were luxuries not seen. Bread they were often without. Whiskey the same, though down as part of the daily ration. Yet, cheerless as was such a state, sometimes for pleasantry you might see a squad of men affecting to have received a supply of whiskey, and passing round the stone jug as if filled, when lo! the eager expectant found it was only water. The fun was that the deceived still kept the secret in hopes to pass it to another and another unwary wight."

As disclosing the uncomplaining spirit of the men, Duponceau, Aide to Steuben, states that sometimes you might see soldiers pop their heads out of their huts and call out in an undertone: "No bread, no soldier," but a single word from their officer would still their complaint.

To prevent the waste of ammunition and alarming the camp, all firing of guns by the soldiers was absolutely forbidden unless by license first obtained from the Major-General of the day; and the order added: "The instant a gun is fired a sergeant and file of men shall be sent to catch the villain who is thus wasting ammunition and alarming the camp."

SPARKS FROM THE CAMP FIRES

Grand parade at 9 o'clock every morning.

Axes and timber for the axing—huts thrown in.

New Year's Cheer! A gill apiece all round.

No gambling in camp, and no swearing allowed except "By George."

A flag to Philadelphia at 9 to-morrow—Get in your love letters.

Save your dirty tallow and make soft soap.

Divine services every Sunday at 11 o'clock.

Tailors freed from other duty—wish I were a tailor!

Poultice for hardship—an extra month's pay—Cheers for Congress!

If you haven't had the small-pox, call on Dr. Cochran.

Bring in a deserter and get ten dollars' reward.

Low beats the drum—another comrade mustered out.

Keep at the cartridge-making—Put in the buckshot.

Shift ye winds! Some fellows are boiling soap grease.

Welcome to Mrs. Washington—Caps off to the Chief.

Look decent on parade, boys—Shave, and comb your hair.

Guns and ammunition to the front—Alarm on the south.

Meet me at the guard house, Johnny—room for two.

Spring flowers, spring showers—Bring out your buckets.

Forty rounds, a gill of rum and a blanket—Forward, March!

HOSPITAL AND OTHER HUTS

As fast as the huts for the men were completed, the tents which had been in use were ordered to be delivered

into the hands of the Quartermaster General, to be properly washed, repaired, stored, and held in readiness for the next campaign.

The hospital huts were not commenced till late in January. They were to measure 15 x 25 feet in the clear, be of one story, not less than 9 feet in height—to be covered with shingles only, without dirt—have windows on each side, and a chimney at one end. Two of these were to be provided for each Brigade, located as near the center of its camp as the ground would permit.

The Provost Guard huts were erected about the same time, the Quartermaster General being instructed January 15th to fix upon a suitable site between or near the lines where huts may be erected for persons under the Provost Guard. Subsequently two men with axes from each Brigade were detailed to construct the huts, and a skilled carpenter was sent to assist and direct them till the work was finished.

Captain Shagg was the Provost Marshal until January 23rd, and was succeeded in the office by Sergeant Howe.

The Provost Guard huts were usually well filled with prisoners, including soldiers and citizens, who had been arrested on the charge of some crime, or misdemeanor. Here they were detained till they could be tried by a Court Martial, and following the trial, if found guilty, till sentence, which in every case must be approved by the Commander-in-Chief, was executed. Recorded against the prisoners such charges might prevail as: refusing to obey orders, drunkenness, theft, gaming, inciting to riot or mutiny, desertion or attempted desertion, insulting or assaulting an officer or citizen, behavior

unbecoming an officer, cowardice, challenging, absence from camp without permission, taking cattle or provisions to Philadelphia, giving aid or information to the enemy, acting as guide or spy to the latter, and many other offenses that might be named.

If upon trial the charge against the prisoner was sustained, the penalty imposed, if upon a citizen or common soldier, was, for ordinary offenses, from 39 to 150 lashes on the bare back, "well laid on"; if upon a commissioned officer, public reprimand, dismissal, or dismissal with infamy, from the service; and for desertion or acting as guide or spy for the enemy, the penalty of death. The sentence was usually executed in the presence of a part or the whole of the army, at the daily parade. One or two recorded examples, illustrative of the manner and severity with which penalties were inflicted (though extreme cases), will form interesting reading.

"Head Quarters V. F., January 5th, 1778. A Gen. Court Martial held the 1st Instant, whereof Colo. Sambre was presidt. Appeared Dunham Ford, Commissary in Genl. Green's division, charged with Theft. The Court having consider'd the Charge and Evidence are of opinion that Dunham Ford is guilty of the Charge exhibited against him and do sentence him to pay Mr. Spencer & Mr. Hotawell 200 dollars and that after he shall procure a Certificate from the aforesaid Genl. of the payment of the above sum, he be brought from the Provost Guard mounted on a horse back foremost without a Saddle, his Coat turn'd wrong side out, his hands tied behind him & be drum'd out of the Army (never more to return) by all the Drums in the Division to which he belongs, and that the above sentence be published in

the Newspapers. The Commander-in-Chief approves the Sentence and orders it put in Execution."

"A Division Court Martial held the 15th instant (January), whereof Lt. Colo. Ballard was President. Capt. Lambert of the 14th Virga. Regt. tried for stealing a Hatt from Captn. Allis, found guilty and unanimously sentenced to be Cashiered, and that it be deemed scandalous for an officer to Associate with him in future and that his Crime, Name and place of Abode and punishment be published in and about Camp and in the newspapers of every State, particularly the State he belongs to, and that he pay Captn. Allis 30 dollars for the hat he stole from him, also the expences of the Witnesses against him and the expences of an express sent for them—Which shall be paid before he is released from his confinement—The Commander-in-Chief approves the Sentence and orders it to take place immediately."

Mary Johnson, found guilty January 29th of laying a plot to desert to the enemy, was "sentenced to receive 100 lashes and to be drummed out of Camp by all the drums and fifes in the Division."

Flogging, or whipping, as a penalty for breach of Martial law, was adopted in the American Army from the military code of the British, with whom, as here, it was often inflicted with seemingly barbarous severity. The practice was long ago discontinued by the United States Government. It may be noted, however, that under the civil statutes of one State (Delaware) it still exists, and is occasionally used as a punishment for petty crimes.

GENERALS AT VALLEY FORGE UNDER WASHINGTON

MAJOR GENERALS

(Commanding Divisions or Special Corps)

Nathaniel Greene
Alexander McDougall
Baron De Kalb
Marquis de Lafayette
Thomas Mifflin
Lord Stirling
(William Alexander)
Charles Lee
Baron von Steuben [2]
John Sullivan

BRIGADIER GENERALS

Thomas Conway [1] (Penna. Troops)
John Glover (Mass. Troops)
Jedediah Huntington (Conn. Troops)
Henry Knox (Corps of Artillery)
Ebenezer Learned (N. H. Troops)
William Maxwell (N. J. Troops)
Lachlan McIntosh (Ga. & N. C. Troops)
John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg (Penna. Troops).
John Patterson (Conn. & Mass. Troops).
Enoch Poor (N. Y. Troops).
Charles Scott (Va. Troops).
Anthony Wayne (Penna. Troops).
George Weeden (Va. Troops).
William Woodford (1st Va. Brigade).
James M. Varnum (R. I. Troops).
Count Pulaski (Light Dragoons).
Louis Lebeque Duportail (Corps of Engineers).

Some of these were in camp but a short time, and others intermittently. Lee was for months a captive in

[1] Page 76. [2] Page 80.

Philadelphia. Lafayette came late, being detained at Bethlehem by the wound he received at Brandywine, and afterwards saw little of the camp. He, McDougall, and Sullivan were detached to do service much of the time on important posts in proximity to the enemy. Besides these, several of the Brigadiers were assigned to distant posts of duty.

Washington's Life Guard consisted originally of one hundred picked men of the Virginia line, but after the arrival of General Steuben it was increased by the addition of another hundred selected from the other states. It was thus enlarged for the purpose of forming a corps to be instructed in the manœuvres about to be introduced into the army and to serve as a model for their execution.

General Conway late in December was by Congress appointed inspector-general to the army, and promoted to the rank of Major-General, but did not afterwards remain long in the service, his resignation resulting from the exposure of his prominent connection with a conspiracy to oust Washington from the chief command. This is known as the Conway Cabal. The plan was to put Gates or Lee in the General's place. Both of these men coveted the position and had some secret following in Congress. Conway was a mere tool. An attempt was made to draw Lafayette into the plot but failed. Washington learned of the matter but waited quietly, till the plot was ripe, then crushed it by exposure before Congress, greatly to the chagrin and humiliation of the participants.

In the army at Valley Forge at the time of the encampment were a number of men beneath the rank of general

who afterwards acquired national distinction. Among these were Alexander Hamilton and Colonel Trumbul aids to Washington; Timothy Pickering who became a cabinet officer; George Clinton, Vice President; Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War; Thomas Hiester, Governor of Pennsylvania; Richard Peters, Judge of U. S. Court; John Marshall (then a private in the ranks), Chief Justice U. S.; James Monroe, President United States; and others.

CAMP DRUDGERY

In the routine of the camp, outside of picket and other forms of military duty, wood had to be cut and lugged for the fires, water carried from remote springs, food cooked and vessels cleansed, clothes washed and holes patched, or tied with a string, huts kept clean, filth and garbage removed from the camp streets, cattle slaughtered, their horns and hoofs boiled for the oil, soft-soap made, the horses and other animals cared for, etc., not to mention the many unwelcome duties connected with the care of the sick and the burial of the dead.

Poor clothes and shabby surroundings lead as a rule to the extinction of self-respect. The average soldier at Valley Forge was no exception under the rule. In consequence April 8th the Commander-in-Chief was obliged to order "the adjutants to see that the troops came on guard parade looking as neat and respectable as possible." "Despite," he said, "of the indifferent quality and want of uniformity in clothing, the soldier may always shave his beard, appear with clean hands and face, and in general have an air of neatness." "Clean camp, clean clothes," he added, "and vituals well-dressed contribute above everything else to the health of the soldier, and

would go far to prevent such number of deaths as have unfortunately taken place since we came to this ground."

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Divine services were held in camp every Sunday, at which sermons were preached by the Chaplains to their respective brigades. If the circumstances of the army on a Sunday were such as to render this impracticable, provision was made for holding the service at another time in the week.

THE ARTIFICERS

The term "Artificers" is a general term, and was used to include tradesmen, or skilled workmen, of every craft whose services could be used to advantage in field or camp. It embraced carpenters, wagon makers, blacksmiths, gunsmiths, saddlers, masons, and followers of allied trades.

The artificers constituted the mechanical, or practical, arm of the Engineering Corps, which embraced on the other hand the sappers and miners, surveyors and draftsmen. This corps was under the command of Brigadier-General Duportail. Early in February there was a reorganization of the corps, and several new companies were added. Three captains, and an equal number of First and Second Lieutenants, were needed to officer these, and notice was given (February 8th) that those desirous of taking commissions in the companies to be formed, for which a knowledge of practical geometry and drawing was a necessary qualification, should hand in their names to the Adjutant-General's office.

In order, also, that men might be gathered out of the regiments to swell the ranks of the Artificers, commanding officers were required to make a return of the names of all suitable persons under their respective commands, so that they might be properly assigned and their services utilized.

When the force had been well organized a Mr. Davis Bevan was appointed to superintend the workmen and deal out materials. "In the future," it was ordered (May 5th), after mentioning Mr. Bevan's appointment, "when boards or planks are wanting, or artificers are necessary to do any jobs in the army, an order signed by a general officer, officers commanding Brigades, or Brigade Quartermasters, and directed to Mr. Bevan at Sullivan's Bridge, will be duly attended to." Everything in or about camp, or while the army was upon the march, requiring skilled labor to construct or repair, was performed by these workmen. Sometimes when a Brigade or Regiment had its own tools and facilities for the performance of certain kinds of work, particularly tailoring, shoemaking, or even gun repairing, it was allowed, under certain conditions, to do it in its own camp, but the bulk of all sorts of mechanical work was performed in the workshops which stood near the present Old Forge.

The Pioneers were men who moved in front of the army while on the march to prepare the way for rapid advance. For this work 150 men were usually chosen from each brigade. Each man carried an axe for the hewing of timber and preparing of roads, and when arrived at a new camping place their duty was to cut wood for their respective brigades. The men were

accompanied by their brigade quartermasters, who directed them in their work. On account of the class of service rendered they were excused from all guard and other ordinary duty, though they were required at all times to carry their guns with them, and if an action was expected they must deliver up their axes to the quartermasters and join their respective corps.

Too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the importance of Steuben's work at Valley Forge as contributing to the army's success in the campaign that followed. No man ever attempted such a task, as he assumed, under less favorable conditions—a third or more of the troops on the sick list with daily ravages being made in the ranks by the enemy death, and another third largely in rags and without suitable arms—yet no man ever accomplished more in so short a time. Inside of one month from the time he was appointed Inspector-General, March 18th, the troops had taken on a more soldierly appearance, and by the 19th of June they had been so trained in a system of useful manœuvres and regularity of discipline as to be able to cope successfully with the trained troops of the British army.

WASHINGTON'S WAR HORSES

What is more fitting than that mention should be here made of the two war horses, Nelson and Blueskin, that served the Commander-in-Chief while at Valley Forge, and throughout the war. They were familiar figures in the camp's life, and in no small degree shared the respect and affection which were entertained by the soldiers towards their great Chief. Mr. John Hunter, an English visitor at Mt. Vernon in 1785, in a letter to

a friend, makes the following reference to these worthy steeds:

"When dinner was over we visited the General's stables, and saw his magnificent horses, among them Old Nelson, now 22 years of age, that carried the General almost always during the war. Blueskin, another fine old horse, next to him had that honor. They have heard the roaring of many a cannon in their time. Blueskin was not the favorite on account of his not standing fire so well as venerable Old Nelson. The General makes no manner of use of them now. He keeps them in a nice stable, where they feed away at their ease for their past services."

WATCHING THE ENEMY

That Washington for a month or more had been keeping close watch of the enemy's movements in Philadelphia, and was holding himself in readiness at an hour's notice to take advantage of any change in the situation, is shown from the following extracts from his letters to the President of Congress.

May 18th he wrote: "From a variety of concurring circumstances, and the uniform report of persons who have left Philadelphia within four days, it would appear that the enemy mean to evacuate the city."

May 25th. "The enemy are making every preparation and seem to be upon the point of leaving Philadelphia."

May 29th. "That the enemy mean to evacuate Philadelphia is almost reduced to a certainty."

June 10th. "We have been kept in anxious expectation of the enemy evacuating Philadelphia for upwards of fourteen days."

Finally June 18th, at 11 A.M., he wrote: "I have the pleasure to inform Congress that I was this minute advised by Mr. Roberts that the enemy evacuated the city this morning. I have put six brigades in motion; and the rest of the army are preparing to follow with all possible dispatch." Seven hours later, (6 P. M.) he added: "I have appointed General Arnold to command in Philadelphia, as the state of his wound will not permit his services in a more active line. Colonel Jackson, with a detachment of troops, is to attend him. The General set out this evening, and I shall move with the main body of the army at five in the morning to-morrow."

This was probably the last communication penned by the Commander-in-Chief from the Valley Forge Headquarters. The spare moments left to him before five in the morning were occupied in issuing instructions to the various commanding officers.

DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS

NOTHING is calculated to give a truer insight into the deplorable condition of things in camp than some of the letters written on the subject at the time by Washington and others, extracts from which are here given. (See Sparks' Life of Washington Vol. V.)

On the 22nd of December, 1777, Washington wrote from Valley Forge to Congress as follows:

"It is with infinite pain and concern that I transmit to Congress the enclosed copies of sundry letters respecting the state of the Commissary's department. In these, matters are not exaggerated. I do not know from what cause this alarming deficiency, or rather total failure of supplies, arises; but unless more vigorous and better regulations take place in that line immediately this army must dissolve. I have done all in my power, by remonstrating, by writing, by ordering the commissaries on this head, from time to time; but without any good effect, or obtaining more than a present scanty relief. Owing to this, the march of the army has been delayed, upon more than one interesting occasion, in the course of the present campaign; and had a body of the enemy crossed the Schuylkill this morning, as I had reason to expect from the intelligence I received at four o'clock last night, the divisions which I ordered to be in readiness to march and meet them could not have moved. It is unnecessary for me to add more upon the subject. I refer Congress to the copies."

Huntington to Washington, Dec. 22nd:

"I received an order to hold my brigade in readiness to march. Fighting will be by far preferable to starving. My brigade are out of provisions, nor can the commissary obtain any meat. I am exceedingly unhappy in being the bearer of complaints to Headquarters. I have used every argument my imagination can invent to make the soldiers easy, but I despair of being able to do it much longer."

Varnum to Washington, same date:

"According to the saying of Solomon, 'hunger will break through a stone wall'. It is therefore a very pleasing circumstance to the division under my command that there is a probability of their marching. Three days successively we have been destitute of bread. Two days we have been entirely without meat. The men must be supplied or they cannot be commanded. The complaints are too urgent to pass unnoticed. It is with pain that I mention this distress. I know it will make your Excellency unhappy, but if you expect the exertion of virtuous principles while your troops are deprived of the necessaries of life, your final disappointment will be great in proportion to the patience, which now astonishes every man of human feeling."

Washington to Governor Livingston Dec. 31st:

"I sincerely feel for the unhappy condition of our poor fellows in the hospitals, and wish my powers to relieve them were equal to my inclination. It is but too melancholy a truth, that our hospital stores are exceedingly scanty and deficient in every instance, and I fear

there is no prospect of their shortly being better. Our difficulties and distresses are certainly great, and such as wound the feelings of humanity. Our sick naked, and well naked, our unfortunate men in captivity naked! You were certainly right in representing the state of the sick, that they may be made more happy if possible."

Washington to Governor Clinton Feb. 16, 1778:

"To form a just idea of the present dreadful situation of the army for want of provisions, it were necessary to be on the spot. For some days past there has been little less than a famine in camp. A part of the army has been a week without any kind of flesh, and the rest three or four days. Naked and starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery, that they have not been ere this encited by their suffering to a general mutiny and dispersion."

Wayne to the Secretary of War:

"I am not fond of danger, but I would most cheerfully agree to enter into action, once every week, in place of visiting each hut of my encampment (which is my constant practice), and where objects strike my eye whose wretched condition beggars all description. For God's sake give us, if you can't give us anything else, give us linen that we may be enabled to preserve the poor worthy fellows from the vermin that are now devouring them. Some hundreds we have buried who have died of a disorder produced by a want of clothing."

Poor to the Governor of New York:

"I have upwards of seventy men unfit for duty, only for want of the articles of clothing; twenty of which

have no breeches at all, so that they are obliged to take their blankets to cover their nakedness, and as many without a single shirt, stocking or shoe; about thirty fit for duty; the rest sick or lame, and God knows it won't be long before they will be all laid up, as the poor fellows are obliged to fetch wood and water on their backs, half a mile with bare legs in snow or mud."

PLAIN TALK TO CONGRESS

Washington to President of Congress Dec. 23, 1777:

"Sir: Full as I was in my representation of the matters in the commissary's department yesterday, fresh and more powerful reasons oblige me to add, that I am now convinced without a doubt, that, unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place in that line, this army must inevitably be reduced to one or other of these three things; starve, dissolve, or disperse in order to obtain subsistence in the best manner they can. Rest assured, Sir, this is not an exaggerated picture, and that I have abundant reason to suppose what I say. Yesterday afternoon, receiving information that the enemy in force had left the city, and were advancing towards Derbey with the apparent design to forage, and draw subsistence from that part of the country, I ordered the troops to be in readiness, that I might give every opposition in my power; when behold, to my great mortification, I was not only informed, but convinced, that the men were unable to stir on account of provision, and that a dangerous mutiny, begun the night before, and which with difficulty was suppressed by the spirited exertions of some officers, was still much to be apprehended, for want of this article. This brought forth the

only commissary in the purchasing line in this camp; and, with him, this melancholy and alarming truth, that he had not a single hoof of any kind to slaughter, and not more than twenty-five barrels of flour. From hence form an opinion of our situation when I add, that he could not tell when to expect any. * * *

Though I have been tender heretofore of giving any opinion, or lodging complaints, as the change in that department (commissary) took place contrary to my judgment, and the consequences thereof were predicted; yet, finding that the inactivity of the army, whether for want of provisions, clothes, or other essentials, is charged to my account, not only by the common vulgar but by those in power, it is time to speak plain in exculpation of myself. With truth, then, I can declare, that no man in my opinion ever had his measures more impeded than I have, by every department of the army.

Since the month of July we have had no assistance from the quartermaster-general.* * * And this, the great and crying evil, is not all. The soap, vinegar, and other articles allowed by Congress, we see none of, nor have we see them, I believe, since the battle of Brandywine. The first, indeed, we have now little occasion for; few men having more than one shirt, many only the moiety of one, and some none at all. In addition to which, as a proof of the little benefit received from a clothier-general, and as a further proof of the inability of an army, under the circumstances of this, to perform the common duties of soldiers (besides a number of men confined to hospitals for want of shoes, and others in farmers' houses on the same account), we have, by a

field return this day made, no less than two thousand, eight hundred and ninety-eight men now in camp unfit for duty, because they are barefoot and otherwise naked. * * * Since the 4th instant our numbers fit for duty, from the hardships and exposures they have undergone, particularly on account of blankets (numbers having been obliged, and still are, to sit up all night by fires, instead of taking comfortable rest in a natural and common way), have decreased near two thousand men. We find gentlemen, without knowing whether the army was really going into winter quarters or not, reprobating the measure as much as if they thought the soldiers were made of stocks or stones, and equally insensible of frost and snow. * * *

But what makes this matter still more extraordinary in my eye is, that these very gentlemen—who were well apprized of the nakedness of the troops from ocular demonstration—should think a winter's campaign, and the covering of these States from the invasion of an enemy, so easy and practicable a business. I can assure those gentlemen, that it is a much easier and less distressing thing to draw remonstrances in a comfortable room by a good fireside, than to occupy a cold, bleak hill, and sleep under frost and snow, without clothes and blankets. However, although they seem to have little feeling for the naked and distressed soldiers, I feel superabundantly for them, and, from my soul, pity those miseries, which it is neither in my power to relieve or prevent. It is for these reasons, therefore, I have dwelt upon the subject; and it adds not a little to my other difficulties and distress to find that much more is expected of me than is possible to be performed, and that upon the

ground of safety and policy I am obliged to conceal the true state of the army from public view, and thereby expose myself to detraction and calumny.

The honorable committee of Congress went from camp fully possessed of my sentiments respecting the establishment of this army. * * * I would earnestly advise that the commissary-general of purchases, whom I rarely see, may be directed to form magazines without a moment's delay, in the neighborhood of this camp, in order to procure provisions for us in case of bad weather (and the coming campaign). The quartermaster-general ought also to be busy in his department. In short, there is as much to be done in preparing for a campaign, as in the active part of it. Everything depends upon the preparation that is made in the several departments, and the success or misfortunes of the next campaign will more than probably originate with our activity or supineness during this winter.

I have the honor to be, &c."

May 29th Washington wrote in a letter to General Gates: "We have near four thousand men sick of the small-pox and other disorders." This was twenty-one days before the evacuation of the cantonment.

General hospitals were maintained at Reading, Bethlehem, Quaker Meeting House, Buckingham Meeting House, and other points, to which the sick and wounded were transferred from the camp hospitals as these became filled. In the work of transfer "Flying Hospitals," so called, or ambulances, were used. Doctor Garick was director of the hospital at Reading.

VILLAGE LANDMARKS NOW OBLITERATED

THE OLD FORGE

AS stated elsewhere, the forge which gave name to the place was situated on the western, or Chester Co., side of Valley creek, about five-eighths of a mile from its mouth.

This fact of late has been questioned. Some writers have placed it on the opposite, or Montgomery Co., side of the creek. An inference hastily drawn from its early name, and its having belonged to the Mt. Joy Manor, may have led to this error. The Manor of Mt. Joy however was a tract of land granted October 24th, 1701, by William Penn to his daughter Letitia, which originally contained 7,800 acres. But more likely, the error has arisen from confounding this forge with one which immediately succeeded it, built on the other side farther down the stream.

The original forge, built before 1751, was burnt by British soldiers about September 23rd, 1777, as part of Howe's army passed through the place and crossed the Schuylkill at Fatland ford, on their way to the occupation of Philadelphia.[1]

The reason for their burning the forge was that its owners, Mr. David Potts and Col. Dewees, were strong patriots, and had caused, or allowed, to be stored there,

[1] Page 103.

and in one or two other buildings, a considerable quantity of military supplies. Of this the British received information, but, as it would appear, upon the arrival of a squad of men to capture the stores the latter had been successfully removed, so in their disappointment they put the torch to the innocent workshop.

This event occurred nearly three months before the arrival of Washington's army for the winter encampment. Upon the arrival of the troops, and their curious inspection of the surrounding territory which would naturally follow, to many of them, on the alert for any sort of material suitable for use in camp construction, the charred walls and iron scrap of the ruined forge, in its wooded seclusion, presented an irresistible temptation for pillage, and in a short time they had made serious depredations upon the property. Stones were removed from its walls, and iron plates from the debris within, making it necessary for the owners, within two weeks from the coming of the troops, to appeal to the Commander-in-Chief to have the depredations stopped.

In consequence of this appeal Washington, on the 6th of January, issued in camp the following order:

"Col. Dewees, who is nearly ruined by the enemy, complains that the ruins of his buildings are likely to be destroyed by this army. The Commander-in-Chief positively forbids the least injury to be done to the walls and chimneys of Col. Dewees' buildings, and as divers iron plates have been taken from them, the commanding officers of corps are immediately to inspect all the huts of their regiments and make returns to the Quartermaster General of all they can find, and the names of

the persons in whose possession they are found, that they may be restored when demanded."—*Weeden's Orderly.*

The reference in this document is without question to the ruined forge, the roar and clatter of whose fire and tilt-hammer had now been silent for more than three months.

The proprietors, during this time however were not idle nor without plan or purpose for the reestablishment of their ruined business. On the contrary, there is reason to believe that soon after the burning of the forge they reached a decision not to rebuild the old work-shop, but to erect another in a more accessible location. The site selected for this was half a mile farther down the creek, on the Montgomery Co. side, near the Gulph road, probably not far above the site of the present yarn mill, and work upon the enterprise was immediately begun.

In determining this the wanton conduct again of some of the soldiers comes to our aid. Evidently the Commander-in-Chief's order of January 6th had not made a very lasting impression upon their minds. Perhaps the mischief perpetrated at this time was by persons who for some reason had not heard the order. Be this as it may, in consequence of further complaints from Col. Dewees, Washington was obliged to issue a second mandate. The date of this was April 29th, nearly four months subsequent to the first. It reads as follows:—

"Complaint having been made by Mr. Dewees, proprietor of the Valley Forge, that the soldiers pull down the houses and break up the forebays at what is called the New Forge upon Valley Creek, the Commander-in-Chief strictly forbids all persons from further

damaging the said buildings and works, which he hopes will be particularly attended to—especially when they consider the great loss which Mr. Dewees has already suffered by the enemy, and by the great waste our army has been under the necessity of committing upon his wood and other improvements."—*Weeden's Orderly.*

The language here used, particularly the clause—"*at what is called the New Forge on Valley Creek,*' speaks for itself, and clearly indicates that the successor to the forge burnt by the British some seven months before was now well advanced in construction—perhaps nearly completed. Here in this New Forge, more conveniently located, being nearer the lines of travel, its proprietors resumed their interrupted industry of manufacturing wrought iron from the pig bars by the old-time refining process, where it was successfully continued during a number of years. This building, however, we are told, also was in ruins as early as 1816.

In an article on the Forge by Howard M. Jenkins in the Pennsylvania Magazine, Vol. XVII, page 430, the position is taken that its location was on the Montgomery county side. His argument seems a plausible one; but in the face of existing evidence in support of the Chester county site, it is far from decisive. Granting, what is not made altogether clear, that the 175 acres of land with which the forge was offered for sale in 1751 was bounded on its western side by the various courses of Valley Creek—the county line—we must not lose sight of the fact that in those days, in contrast with these, land was not so valuable, nor were property lines so closely drawn or insisted upon as to preclude the erection of a building a few feet—in this case forty or fifty

at most—beyond the owner's line, particularly in such a situation. A two minutes' glance at the spot will wonderfully aid our conceptions.

On the Montgomery county side the low ground between the creek and the hill at this point is too narrow to admit of a building of the most meager proportions, while the ground on the other side, more ample, is yet of such a character, situated at the base of a rugged, rocky, wood-covered mountain, and now partly covered by water, as to be of absolutely no intrinsic worth. In all the years that have intervened it has been put to no practical use; and to-day, were it not for its historic interest, as the supposed location of the forge, the entire site, without question, could be acquired for a song.

In support of the Chester county location tradition is almost unanimous. Added to this is the testimony of one or two contemporary maps. The map prepared during the encampment by Colonel Dubuysson, for the use of General Lafayette, places it on the west side of Valley Creek.

The same is true of the map given by Sparks in his mammoth Biography of Washington. It may also be added that in the finding of slag on the premises by residents of the village, and others, a common occurrence for years and as late as 1897, none of it has been reported found on the Montgomery side.

THE GUN FACTORY

The statement is made in a local historical work, published in 1872,[1] that about the time of the Revolutionary war the United States Government built at Valley

[1] "Annals of Phœnixville and Vicinity" by S. W. Pennypacker.

Forge an establishment for the manufacture of muskets, concurrent with the building of similar establishments at Harper's Ferry, Va. and Springfield, Mass. The building, it is added, was a three-story structure, about 100 ft. long by 30 ft. in depth.

Of the correctness of such a statement I am unable to find any proof, and must regard it as purely an error.

In the first place, no muskets are known to have been manufactured in this country by any Government institution prior to the year 1795. The first were manufactured during that year at the National armory at Springfield, Mass., the year after its establishment by act of Congress approved April 2nd, 1794.

During the Revolutionary War, in 1776, General Washington ordered Col. David Mason, of Boston, to establish a laboratory in New England for the preparation of all kinds of ammunition. The location chosen for this was Springfield, and the laboratory ultimately developed into the Springfield Armory.

Some muskets were repaired at this establishment during the Revolutionary War, but none were manufactured previous to 1795. The Arsenal at Harper's Ferry was established in 1796, under the act previously mentioned.

In addition to the facts just stated, it may be remarked that nowhere in any authoritative list of Government Arsenals, laboratories, forts, etc., does the name of Valley Forge appear; and in the War Department at Washington the Chief of Ordnance affirms that at his office nothing is known of any Government establishment being built at Valley Forge for the manufacture of muskets.

A gun factory, however, was established here in 1821, nearly 40 years after the war, not a Government establishment, but a private enterprise under the management of Brooke Evans, an English operator; and we can readily perceive how reports concerning this might give rise to the story contained in the former statement.

What is said to be part of the ruins of this old landmark may still be seen in the yard back of the present old forge. For a long time it was used as a stable, but fifteen or more years ago it was burned down. On the same site previously there was a forge and slitting mill, built by David Potts and Joshua Malin, about 1814. The latter also had a small shop, operated in connection with the other works, occupying exactly the site of the present forge building, in which he carried on the manufacture of nails by the tedious hand process.

In 1821 the two first-named shops were changed and enlarged, and formed the basis of the gun factory. The works also included a building, now extinct, on the opposite side of the creek.

In regard to the success of the enterprise, or the details of its operation, but little accurate information seems to have been preserved, beyond the fact that by it during the period of its existence 20,000 muskets were manufactured. Whether these were sold to the United States Government, or shipped to a foreign market, is not definitely known. Neither can it be stated with accuracy just what type of musket the Evans factory produced. The fact that Mr. Evans was an Englishman, and that he came directly from England to engage in the work of gun-making at Valley Forge, might warrant the inference or assumption that in embarking in the

enterprise it was with the fixed intention of making Great Britain his prospective market; and if this were the case, he naturally would select as a model for manufacture that type of musket which he knew to be popular with British military authorities.

Whether intended for the American or the British market it was without question a flint-lock musket that Evans manufactured. The percussion-cap gun invented by a Scotch clergyman by the name of Forsythe, in 1807, had by this time (1821) come to be much talked of, both in military and sporting circles, but it was many years later before the system had become sufficiently developed and improved to secure for it moderate favor or general use. The needle gun invented by the German, Nicholas Dreyse, did not appear till 1827.

The flint-lock system, dating back to about 1630, of Spanish origin, was introduced into England in the reign of William the Third, and from that time flint-lock guns gradually increased in favor until they became the general weapons of the country, being retained in use in the British army until after 1840. Indeed, flint-lock guns were manufactured in Birmingham for the British army as late as 1842.

In the American Revolution a breech-loading carbine of the flint-lock type, known as the "Ferguson" rifle, invented some time previous to 1776, was used to some extent by the British army. It was the first time it had been used by a regularly organized British corps. In this country the flint-lock gun held sway quite as late as with the British, until it was finally super-

seded by muskets of the percussion type of American manufacture.

At the commencement of the Revolutionary war the colonists had but few arms. The first supply had therefore to be collected in great part from individuals, and included a great variety of styles and bore, or caliber.

In course of time a considerable supply was procured from France, these principally being of the old model of 1763, commonly known as the "Charleville Musket." This gun, with some slight changes, served as a pattern for the flint-lock arms manufactured by the United States when manufacturing operations begun. The first percussion-cap musket produced in this countrv was that manufactured at the National Armory at Springfield, Mass., in 1844 known as the model 1842, because adopted by the army in that year. The flint-lock musket was set aside as soon as a sufficient number of percussion-lock muskets had been manufactured and issued. The first issue of the latter was made to Co."A" 1st U. S. Artillery then stationed at Fort Preble, Maine, in December, 1844. The type of small arm now in use in the army is called "U. S. Rifle, Model of 1903."

THE OLD GRIST MILL

This stood opposite the Washington Headquarters, on the same side of the creek, close to the present railroad embankment. It was built by Isaac Potts not later than 1760, and was in successful operation up to September, 1777, when as some say it shared the fate of the old Forge at the hands of the British. If burnt at that time, which is doubtful, it was afterwards rebuilt, for during many subsequent years it served tbe farming

community in the grinding of their grists, till it was destroyed by fire in 1843, having taken fire, as was supposed, from the spark of a locomotive. A piece of the old water-wheel is preserved in the Headquarters as an interesting relic.

A NEW GRIST MILL

To take the place of the old was erected the year following (1844), a hundred yards or more farther up the creek, by Mr. Ogden, who then owned the property. After being used for a quarter of a century as a grist mill, April 4th, 1870, it was bought, greatly added to, and converted by the purchaser into what was known as:

KNAUER'S PAPER MILL

Where for a number of years the proprietor, Mr. Isaiah Knauer, carried on a successful business, manufacturing a fine quality of stationery and other kinds of paper for the Philadelphia market. His place of residence during the time was the house now known as the Washington Inn. In a building adjoining the paper-mill the manufacture of chairs and bent timber was carried on for several years by Mr. L. Grover, a son-in-law of Mr. Knauer. Later the property changed hands, and in 1885 the mill was destroyed by fire. The old ruins and tall brick smoke-stack were removed by the Park Commission in 1909, after the purchase of the property by the State, and preparatory to the improvements which have since been made by the Commission on the plot of ground now termed the "Valley Green."

THE SHODDY MILL

Was another old land-mark, built about 1850, and used for a number of years in the manufacture of shoddy—a wool fibre produced from rags—an article employed, to a considerable extent, a generation or more ago to mix with new wool as a cheapening element in the manufacture of woolen cloths.

It stood in the rear of the grounds belonging to the Headquarters, immediately across from the railway station, near what is now the entrance to the Boulevard. For a number of years the old ruin stood as a grim sentinel of bygone days to greet the visitor to the Forge as he stepped from the railway train.

THE OLD BREWERY

The tumble-down shell of the old brew house is also within the recollection of some of the oldest residents of the village. Its location was just east of the M. E. Church on ground now crossed by the quarry railroad. It was erected in the first place as a barn for the adjoining dwelling by Mr. Vogdes owner of the property—was afterwards converted into a tannery—later into a brew house, and after being used for a time as such, stood for many years unoccupied. The period of its activity belonged to the fifties in the last century. While in operation it is said to have carried on a thriving keg trade in the surrounding country, besides filling many a stone jug from its back door to be carried up Jug Hollow, the frequent appearance of which in that wooded ravine, once known as Welsh Hollow, caused it to be dubbed with its present cognomen. Jug Hollow is about a mile

west of the village, and is entered by a road leading to the left from off the lower road to Phoenixville.

Why the projectors of the brewery should have planted it so close to a Methodist church has always been a mystery. That its noteworthy location, on the other hand, had anything to do with its ultimate failure, cannot now be determined. Its ruins were removed about 1870, and the stone used for the erection of the extensive wall which still appears around the adjacent property, east of the site, which was then the home of Mr. Isaiah Thropp who had owned and occupied it for some years.

SIDE-LIGHT ITEMS

AN INTERESTING EXTRACT[1]

THIS extract gives valuable information on several points and settles the question and date of the burning of the Forge. It covers the period when Washington and his army were in the vicinity of Pottsgrove.

"September 18th, 1777. A man sent out discovered upwards of 3,800 barrels of flour, soap and candles, 25 barrels of horseshoes, several of tomahawks and kettles and intrenching tools, and 20 hogsheads of rum, 3 miles from hence at the Valley Forge. A detachment of 3 companies light infantry went this night to possess it. The commanding officer of the Light Infantry had his horse shot.

"20th. Weather extremely fine. At 2 this morning the guards moved, and posted themselves with the light infantry at the Valley Forge. Wagons employed in the carrying off from the magazine there the rebel stores. This morning 5 rebel sentries fired on the guards, who took the whole. They slightly wounded one of our officers.

"21st. Sunday. At 5 this morning the army moved. Marched 3 miles to the Valley Forge and 2 more to Moore Hall, making 5 miles, and there encamped.

"We found the houses full of military stores.

[1] From the Journal of Captain John Montresor, Chief Engineer of the British Army in America in the Revolutionary War.

"A bridge was ordered to be made across the Schuylkill at this place where the river is 120 yards, and got in great forwardness intending to deceive the enemy. Almost every day one or two deserters come in.

"22nd. At 5 this morning the Hessian Grenadiers passed over the Schuylkill at Gordon's Ford, under fire of their artillery and small arms, and returned back, being intended as a feint. At the same time the Light Infantry and Grenadiers passed over the Schuylkill at Fatland Ford without a single shot and there took post.

"23rd. Just after 12 this night the whole army moved to the opposite side, on North side of the river Schuylkill by the way of the Fatland Ford, and by 10 A. M. the whole Baggage and all had happily passed over.

"Our couriers affirm that the Rebel army principally retreated to Reading. On leaving the ground of our last encampment we set fire to the Valley Forge and destroyed it.

"26th. At half past eight this morning army marched .... and later took possession of the city."

THE THREATENED ATTACK AT WHITEMARSH

In a letter to Governor Livingston dated December 11th, 1777, Washington writes: "General Howe, after making great preparations, and threatening to drive us beyond the mountains, came out with his whole force last Thursday evening, and after manoeuvring round us till the Monday following, decamped very hastily and marched back to Philadelphia."

In a letter to Congress dated the day previous (December 10), after giving a detailed account of these manoeuvres, including a skirmish between the forces on Thursday and Friday, Washington adds: "I sincerely wish that they had made an attack; as the issue, in all probability, from the disposition of our troops, and the strong situation of our camp, would have been fortunate and happy. At the same time I must add that reason, prudence, and every principle of policy forbade us from quitting our post to attack them. Nothing but success would have justified the measure; and this could not be expected from their position."

Howe unquestionably was afraid to assail Washington, and failing in his efforts to draw him out into open combat, gave up the attempt and marched his soldiers back to the city.

The following extract from the diary of Robert Morton, an intelligent resident of Philadelphia at the time, bears on the point:

"Dec. 8, 1777. Several reports about the armies, but this evening, to the great astonishment of the citizens, the army returned. The causes assigned for its speedy return are various and contradictory, but ye true reason appears to be this, that the army having marched up to Washington's lines near to Whitemarsh, and finding him strongly posted, thought it most prudent to decline making the attack."

Washington, on receiving intelligence of Howe's retreat, said: "Better would it have been for Sir William Howe to have fought without victory than thus to declare his inability."

The Whitemarsh Headquarters are still standing about half a mile east from Camp Hill Station, on the North Penna. Railroad. The house, built of stone, is two and a half stories in height, eighty feet front, and twenty-seven in depth. Camp Hill, on which part of the left wing of the army was posted, is directly in the rear of the house. A redoubt known as Fort Washington, on the right of the lines, is still well preserved. Near this spot a neat memorial granite slab was erected in 1891 by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution, which bears the following inscription: "About 700 feet south of this stone is an American redoubt and the site of Howe's threatened attack December 6, 1777. From here Washington's army marched to Valley Forge."

When the army was about to leave Whitemarsh a ten dollar prize was offered by the General for the best substitute for shoes, a kind of moccasin, made from raw hides. Those competing were to have their samples in by 9 o'clock the next morning, and the Major-General of the day was to serve as judge, and bestow the reward upon the successful artist.

"The next morning (Dec. 12) the want of provisions—I could weep tears of blood when I say it—the want of provisions rendered it impossible to march till the evening of that day."—*John Laurens to Henry Laurens, Dec.* 23, 1777.

"Dec. 12th. At 6 P. M. we marched to the bridge (made of wagons) which we crossed in Indian file, and at 3 A. M. encamped near the Gulph, where we remained without tent or blankets in the midst of a severe snow storm."—*Diary of Lieut. James McMichæl.*

"Dec. 14. It is amazing to see the spirit of the soldiers when destitute of shoes and stockings marching cold nights and mornings, leaving blood in their footsteps! Yet notwithstanding the fighting disposition of the soldiers is great!"—*Letter from the army in Continental Journal Jan.* 15, 1778.

"Dec. 16. Cold rainy day—Baggage of our Division ordered over the Gulph—were to march at ten—but the baggage was ordered back, and for the first time since we have been here the tents were pitched to keep the men more comfortable."—*Dairy of Surgeon Albigence Waldo.*

"THE GULPH"

The Gulph Mill was erected in 1747. It is situated at the intersection of the Gulph road with Gulph creek, which empties into the Schuylkill at West Conshohocken. It is about one and a half miles west of the river and six miles southeast of Valley Forge.

During the army's stay at Valley Forge, the "Gulph," or Gulph Mills, was an important post, and a large guard was continually kept there. Col. Aaron Burr, then only 22 years of age, who joined Washington's army at Whitemarsh, was put in command of this guard. His biographer, Davis, relates the following characteristic anecdote of the intrepid young Colonel.

"It appears that the militia stationed to guard the pass at the Gulph were continually sending false alarms to camp, which obliged the officers to get the troops under arms, and frequently to keep them on the alert all night. These alarms, it was soon found, arose from want of a

proper system of observation and from a general looseness of discipline in the corps. General McDougall, who well knew the quality of Burr as a soldier, recommended the Commander-in-Chief to give him the command of the post. This was done, which resulted in the introduction of a system of such rigorous discipline that mutiny was threatened and the death of the Colonel resolved upon. This came to the knowledge of Burr, and on the evening decided upon (every cartridge first having been quietly drawn from the muskets) the detachment was ordered to parade. When in line one of the men stepped from the ranks and levelled his musket at him, whereupon Burr raised his sword and struck the arm of the mutineer above the elbow, nearly severing it from his body. In a few minutes the corps was dismissed, the arm of the mutineer was the next day amputated, and no more was heard of the mutiny."

THOMAS PAINE'S ALLUSION TO THE HUTS

In a letter to Dr. Franklin dated "Yorktown, May 16th, 1778," Mr. Paine writes: "General Washington keeps his station at Valley Forge. I was there when the army first began to build huts. They appeared to me like a family of beavers, every one busy; some carried logs, some mud, and the rest plastered them together. The whole was raised in a few days, and it is a curious collection of buildings, in the true rustic order."

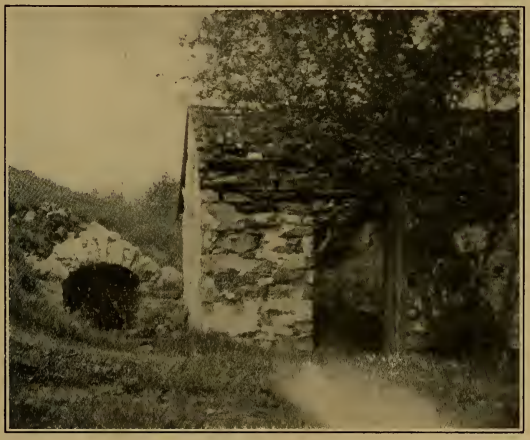
ANOTHER VIEW

From a letter written by a soldier in camp the following is taken: "Headquarters, V.F., Dec. 30th, 1777,

Tuesday. A considerable number of our men are in warm comfortable huts, but others have made little progress, the march of several thousand of the enemy to Derby, where they remained till the 28th, having obliged a considerable body of our men to leave their work and watch them."

McINTOSH'S HEADQUARTERS

One writer says: "General McIntosh was quartered at the house of Joseph Mann, who lived on the west side



STERLING SPRING

of Valley Creek, near Valley Forge. This house has not been located." It is more than likely that the house was one which stood on the present Riddle property near the creek, a hundred or more yards above the present dam. This was the old farm-house on the place in the time of the Revolution. Lately having fallen into decay, it was torn down in 1907. A pillar of the ruins is preserved,

and near it a hundred feet to the west is the ancient spring and spring-house. The locality was that of the Artificers Camp. Mr. Burk says: "A contemporary map, now owned by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, shows what other maps do not, the location of a Brigade at this point. This was the Carolinian brigade, which belonged to Lord Stirling's Division, if the map is trustworthy." The Carolinians, however, belonged to General McIntosh's brigade, the latter being composed of troops from North Carolina and Georgia; and if the brigade belonged to Lord Stirling's Division the Artificers' site was a most natural and convenient location for it, as Lord Stirling's command included the Corps of Engineers. The house referred to, therefore, was in all probability the headquarters of General McIntosh, if not, for a time, even that of Lord Stirling himself.

General Smallwood was sent Dec. 19 with a force to Wilmington, to establish a post to protect the region from the encroachment of Howe's army. This force was the Division lately commanded by General Sullivan, and consisted of the Maryland troops.

About Jan. 21st (1778) many Virginia men whose term of service had expired were mustered out, or discharged in squads of 20 or 25.

Colonel Pickering was Adjutant-General till Jan. 13th, when called by Congress to a seat at the Board of War. Colonel Scammel was then made Adjutant-General in his place.

Isaac Potts was a Quaker minister. He was also owner of a grist mill which stood opposite the Headquarters. It was he who is said to have discovered

Washington kneeling in prayer in a retired spot in the woods. After going home he said to his wife with tears in his eyes: "If there is one man in the country whose prayer God Almighty will hear it is General Washington."

THE NAVY IN 1776

The Revolution began without a single armed vessel. In 1775 Rhode Island began by fitting out two small schooners to defend the coasting trade, and Connecticut provided two for the same purpose. Rhode Island also

THE POTTS MANSION
(Washington's Headquarters)

was the first to recommend to Congress the formation of a naval force, and in December 1775 Congress put into commission about thirteen vessels carrying less than a hundred guns. Thus began the gallant American navy. The first naval battle occurred about three weeks after the battle of Lexington. The first to cause the striking of the British flag on the ocean was a Captain Wheaton. After the peace of 1783 the first American

flag displayed in the Thames at London was on board the "William Penn," a curious coincidence. Its commander was Captain Josiah. Its appearance created considerable excitement and indignation among the people. When from a group of ladies arose an expression of astonishment at the Captain's presumption and audacity, the wife of the Captain tartly replied, "When we win gold, we wear it."

In October 1777 while General Howe was in possession of Philadelphia, though many of the inhabitants had left the city because of the war or a dread of the British, an accurate census was taken by order of General Cornwallis, and reported as follows: Houses in city, 3,508, empty 587, stores, 287. Inhabitants 21,767, exclusive of the army and strangers.

PATRIOTISM AMONG THE LADIES

A lady of Philadelphia, writing to an officer in the British army who had been intimate in her family before the war, thus expresses to him the patriotic feelings of her sex:

"I assure you that though we consider you as a public enemy we regard you as a private friend, and while we detest the cause you are fighting for, we wish well to your personal interest and safety. I will tell you what I have done. My only brother I have sent to the camp with my prayers and blessings; and had I twenty sons and brothers they should go to emulate the great examples before them. I have retrenched every superfluous expense in my table and family. Tea I have not drunk since last Christmas, nor bought a new cap or gown since your defeat at Lexington. I have the pleasure to assure

you that these are the sentiments of all my sister Americans. They have sacrificed assemblies, parties, tea-drinkings, and finery, to the great spirit of patriotism.

If these are our sentiments, what must be the resolutions of our husbands *but to die or be free!* All ranks of men among us are in arms. Nothing is heard in our streets but the trumpet and drum, and the universal cry is: 'Americans to Arms '"—*Watson's Annals.*

At the time of the Revolution the woods in the neighborhood of Valley Forge had ceased almost entirely to be inhabited by wild game. Deer were captured as late as 1770, bear as late as 1771, while the killing of a wolf is reported as late as 1780. Fish, both in the Schuylkill river and its tributaries, were found in great abundance.

At the time of the encampment Norristown was a farm, and belonged to one John Bull, whose barn the British burned the day after they burned the Valley Forge, as they passed through the region on their way toward Philadelphia. John Bull, notwithstanding his name, was a strong Whig, hence the burning affection shown him by his British visitors.

The first house erected in Norristown is said to have been framed in Valley Forge and floated down the Schuylkill River.

During the past half century many mementoes of the encampment have been dug up within the lines. In the spring of 1857 William Kennedy turned up with his plow several 12 and 15–pound cannon balls, and a number of axes. Such articles also as pewter plates and spoons, bayonets, fragments of muskets, musket-balls, etc., have been found.

A LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Perhaps the first circulating library established anywhere in the region of Valley Forge was one which existed from 1798 to 1802 at the "Corner Stores," about four miles distant on the road to Phoenixville. This library contained at least seventy-six books, including the Spectator, Milton's Poems, Josephus' History, and others; and its membership included about 25 persons. Among them were John and Benjamin Longstreth, Jacob and Matthias Pennypacker, William Davis, John Jacobs, Moses Robinson, Daniel Sower, and others. The last-named gentleman was a son of Christopher Sower, Jr., and grandson of Christopher Sower, acknowledged to be "probably the most famous and important of Pennsylvania printers and publishers." They published the Bible three times, and the New Testament seven times in German many years before it appeared in English in America. A public journal was printed at Germantown in the German language by Christopher Sower as early as 1739. Its name (Anglicized) was "The Pennsylvania Recorder of Events." In 1744 it was continued by Christopher Sower, Jr., under the name of "The Germantown Zeitung," and published till the year of the war, 1777. This publishing house is still in existence in Philadelphia.

A STUNNING NEWSPAPER PARAGRAPH

As a sample of the extravagant war reports that now and then gained circulation during the Revolution, the following will be of interest, taken from the New York Gazette during the British occupation of New York City:

"June 28, 1777, Saturday.

Since Thursday a report has prevailed that there had been a smart battle in the Jerseys. After the King's troops had embarked, and the day appointed for the sailing of the expedition, the General received intelligence that the rebel army was within three miles of Amboy. The troops were disembarked and marched in the night to surprise Washington. The reports vary much. 1,000 killed of the King's troops, 5 or 6,000 of the rebels, and as many taken prisoners with their artillery: Washington was among the slain, Stirling dead of his wounds; Governor Livingston likewise; 400 Pennsylvanians had grounded their arms, and come over to the regulars. Seventy were taken prisoners who, together with a couple of field pieces, were brought to the city."

John Waterman was Commissary of General Varnum's brigade. The troops of this brigade were encamped near the star redoubt. The following extract from a letter written by Captain William Allen, of the Rhode Island Continental Line, informs us of the date of Mr. Waterman's death:

"Camp Valley Forge, 24th Apr. 1778.

"Dear Sir, Captain Tew and myself arrived safe to post the 22nd inst.; found the encampment in perfect tranquility, and the enemy peaceable in their quarters. Am sorry to inform you that yesterday died of a short illness that worthy gentleman, John Waterman, Esq., Commissary to our brigade.

"Humble Servant,

Wm. Allen."

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

February 3rd, 1778, while the army was at Valley Forge, a resolution was passed by Congress requiring all officers, civil as well as military, holding commissions under that body to take, and subscribe to, an oath or affirmation of allegiance to the United States. Following is a copy of the oath subscribed to by an officer in camp:

"I, James Glentworth, Lieutenant of the 6th Penna. Reg't., do acknowledge the United States of America to be Free, Independent and Sovereign, and declare that the people thereof owe no allegiance or obedience to George the Third, king of Great Britain, and I renounce, refuse and abjure any allegiance or obedience to him, and I do *swear* that I will to the utmost of my power support, maintain, and defend the said United States against the said king George the Third, his heirs and successors, and his and their assistants and adherents, and I will serve the said United States in the office of Lieutenant which I hold with fidelity according to the best of my skill and understanding.

JAMES GLENTWORTH."

"Sworn to at the Valley Forge Camp this 11th day of May, 1778, before me

STIRLING, M. G."

MARTHA WASHINGTON

Mrs. Martha Washington's custom was to join her husband each year and spend a month or two with him while the army was in winter quarters. On these occasions she took a profound interest in the welfare of the

soldiers, spending much of her time in ministering to their comfort, and at all times entertained toward her hero husband the deepest sympathy in the details and responsibilities of his position.

Mr. John Hunter (in his letter of 1785, quoted elsewhere) notes "what pleasure she took in the fifes and drums, preferring it to any music that was ever heard"—and to see the troops reviewed a week or two before the men were disbanded, when they were all well clothed, was, she said, 'a most heavenly sight.'

She came to camp at Valley Forge on Feb. 10th, though she had been looked for by the General for several days previous. The next day, Feb. 11th, old style, was the General's birthday, and was no doubt joyously, though quietly, celebrated at the Potts mansion, an extra dish or two, prepared by the hand of the thoughtful wife, being added in honor of the occasion to the daily menu. That the 11th was the date usually recognized and observed as Washington's birthday at that time, instead of the 22nd as now (new style), is shown from the following item which appeared in the "New Haven Gazette" of March 16th, 1786: "Richmond, Va. February 15. Saturday last (the 11th) being the birthday of his Excellency, George Washington (when he entered the 54th year of his age), an elegant ball was given on the occasion at the Capitol in this city, where were a numerous assembly of gentlemen and ladies."

"FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY"

Perhaps the earliest use of this epithet, as applied to Washington, is that which occurs in a German Almanac, "The Nord Americanisch Almanac" for the year

1779 (the year after he was at Valley Forge), size, small quarto, printed at Lancaster, Pa. In the front piece, full size of page, an emblematic design presents in its upper portion a figure of Fame with a trumpet in her right hand, and in her left a medallion portrait laureated inscribed: "Waschington." From the trumpet proceed the words: "Des Landes Vater"—"The Father of the Country."

TRIBUTE TO WASHINGTON

"And what shall I say of him who bears on his heart the weight of all! Who can measure the anxieties that afflict his mind? Who weigh the burdens that he has to bear? Who but himself can ever know the responsibilities that rest upon his soul? Behold him in yonder cottage, his lamp burning steadily through half the winter night, his brain never at rest, his hand always busy, his pen ever at work, now counselling with Greene how to clothe and feed the troops, or with Steuben how to reorganize the service; now writing to Howe about exchanges, or to Livingston about the relief of prisoners, or to Clinton about supplies, or to Congress about enlistments, or promotions, or finances, or the French alliance; opposing foolish and rash counsels to-day, urging prompt and vigorous policies to-morrow; now calming the jealousy of Congress, now soothing the wounded pride of ill-used officers; now answering the complaints of the civil authority, and now those of the starving soldiers, whose sufferings he shares, and by his cheerful courage keeping up the hearts of both. Modest in the midst of pride, wise in the midst of folly, calm in the midst of passion, cheerful in the midst of gloom, steadfast among

the wavering, hopeful among the despondent, bold among the timid, prudent among the rash, generous among the selfish, true among the faithless, greatest among good men, and greatest among the great—such was George Washington at Valley Forge."

AN AFTER VISIT TO THE OLD CAMP

Washington made a flying visit to Valley Forge nine years after the encampment while attending the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, as is learned from his diary, which reads as follows:—

"1787, July 30, near Valley Forge: In company with Mr. Govr. (Gouverneur) Morris, and in his Phaeton with my horses, went up to one Jane Moore's in the vicinity of Valley Forge, to get trout.

Tuesday, July 31, at Valley Forge: Whilst Mr. Morris was fishing I rid over the old cantonment of the American (Army) of the winter 1777 & 8—Visited all the Works wch were in ruins; and the Incampments in woods where the ground had not been cultivated. On my return to Mrs. Moore's I found Mr. Robt. Morris and his Lady there."

The stopping place here referred to was not Moore Hall, but the home of a Mrs. Jane Moore, one mile west of the Schuylkill river on Trout Creek, which empties into the Schuylkill three miles below Valley Creek.

Washington does not here speak of the appearance of the place on this visit, further than to say that all the works were in ruins.

Six years earlier, or three and a half years after the Encampment the place was revisited by Lieut. Enos

Reeves, of the Pennsylvania Line, who makes the following reference to it in a letter to a friend:

"September, 1781—

On Monday Lieut. McLean and I set off for the city of Philadelphia. Came around by the springs, lost our way by going the back road, and found ourselves near the Bull Tavern at the Valley Forge. We dined near Moor Hall, came through our old encampment, or rather first huts of the whole Army. Some of the officers' huts are inhabited, but the greater part are decayed; some are split up into rails, and a number of fine fields are to be seen on the level ground that was cleared, but in places where they have left the shoots grow it is already like a half-grown young wood."

WASHINGTON'S CAREER IN BRIEF

George Washington was born February 22nd (11th, Old Style), 1732—Served as Colonel with Braddock in the French war at the age of 23—Was elected by the Second Congress Commander-in-Chief "of all the forces raised, and to be raised for the defence of the Colonies" June 15, 1775, two days before the battle of Bunker Hill. Was 45 years of age while at Valley Forge—Resigned his commission at the close of the war, Dec. 23, 1783—Was President of the convention held in May, 1787, for the formation of the Constitution—Was chosen President of the United States by unanimous vote of the electors April 6, 1789 (inaugurated April 30)—Was elected for a second term, serving in all from 1789–97—Delivered his noted farewell address to his countrymen early in the autumn of 1796 (Sept. 19), and on the 4th of March,

1797, retired from office, following for the rest of his days, at Mount Vernon, the quiet pursuits of agriculture. He died Dec. 14th, 1799, when almost 68 years of age, and is buried at Mount Vernon.

LENGTH AND COST OF THE WAR

The war for American Independence began with the skirmish at Lexington on the 19th of April, 1775, and ended eight years later with the Treaty of Peace signed at Paris, September 3rd, 1783, in which England acknowledged the independence of the colonies. On the 2nd of March in that year the preliminary treaty arrived, signed in Paris, November 30th, 1782, and on the eighth anniversary of the battle of Lexington (April 19th, 1783) a cessation of hostilities was proclaimed in the army. On the 3rd of November, of that year, the army was disbanded by a general order of Congress.

The British army evacuated the city of New York and embarked for home on November 25th, carrying with it the last insignia of Royal power in the United States. The most signal triumphs of the American army during the war were at Saratoga and Yorktown, the latter being the decisive battle. George the III was then on the throne of Great Britain, Louis the XVI on the throne of France, and Joseph II on the throne of Germany.

The financial cost of the war to the United States was $135,193,700, and to England 136,000,000 sterling.

The total number of Continental troops enlisted was 231,959. Militia 58,747.

DEVELOPMENT OF PATRIOTIC SENTIMENT CONCERNING VALLEY FORGE

FOR nearly a century after the famous encampment Valley Forge as a place of sacred interest was given but little public consideration. Meanwhile its historic fortifications were slowly becoming effaced by the action of the elements and the tread of civilization.

Foremost among those who first were impressed and pained by the general apathy concerning the place, and sought to arouse public sentiment in its favor, was Mary E. Thropp, afterwards Mrs. Mary E. Thropp Cone.

Her father was Isaiah Thropp, and her maternal grandfather John Workizer, both of whom in their day and generation were among the most respected and influential citizens of the historic village.

Born and reared under the shadow of its hills, and with an intense love for her native heath, she developed even in her school-girl days a zeal and ambition to be of service in awakening public interest in the place, and from thence on, with this object in view, she labored continuously by pen and personal endeavor till in time her labors were rewarded.

The direct fruitage of this effort, combined with that of others who had become interested, was the "Valley Forge Centennial Association," formed December 18th,

1877. Its President was Isaac W. Smith, of Valley Forge, at whose house the organization was formed; its Secretary, John Robb; its Treasurer, John W. Eckman. Other gentlemen present at the formation were Col. Theo. Bean, Dr. N. A. Pennypacker, Gen. B. F. Fisher, Maj. R. R. Corson, Charles Ramey, Maj. B. F. Bean, I. H. Todd, Chas. Mercer, John Rowan, and Daniel Webster. The special purpose of the Association was to arrange for a patriotic demonstration on the one hundredth anniversary of the encampment then approaching, which was successfully carried out in a well-planned celebration of the event held on the grounds June 19th, 1878, with an interesting and varied program of exercises, the effect of which was to give untold impetus to the cause.

Mrs. Cone, then at Para, Brazil, whither her husband, Mr. Andrew Cone, in the spring of 1876 had been sent as United States Consul, was solicited to write a poem for the occasion, and in response produced and forwarded her interesting "Valley Forge Centennial Poem," of nearly one hundred and fifty lines, the reading of which formed a part of the program. After her return to this country, and the subsequent death of her husband, she continued her efforts along the line of her long cherished project, and in 1882 became the originator and President of the "Valley Forge Monument Association," the purpose of which, in addition to the raising of money for the object, was to arouse a general public sentiment that would induce Congress to make an appropriation for the erection at Valley Forge of a substantial granite shaft upon which might be chiselled in outline the story of the encampment. With this in view public meetings

were held in various parts of the country; the interest and support of many prominent persons were enlisted, and an appeal was ultimately made to Congress for an appropriation. Miss Amelia Thropp, sister of Mrs. Cone, was Secretary of this Association, and Mr. Anthony J. Drexel, of Philadelphia, its Treasurer.

In the meantime, as an outgrowth of the Centennial Celebration, another, if not perhaps a rival, organization had been formed, entitled: "The Valley Forge Centennial Memorial Association," of which Mrs. Anna M. Holstine, of Bridgeport, was made Lady Regent. The object of this Association was to raise money for the purchase and maintenance of the "Washington Headquarters" as a suitable memorial of the encampment. Appeal was made to patriotic citizens for contributions of a dollar or more, the contributors to receive in return certificates of stock at a dollar per share; and in time the property, including the house and one-and-a-half acres of ground, was bought for $6,000, one-half of the amount being secured by a mortgage. Difficulty, however, was afterwards experienced in raising even the interest on the mortgage, and an appeal was made to the "Patriotic Order of the Sons of America," at its convention in Norristown in 1885, which came at once to the Memorial Association's relief, and in a very short time paid off the debt upon the property, obtaining in return from the Association 3,600 shares of stock, and a voice in its management.

An appeal to Congress was made by this Association also for an appropriation toward its work, but when it became apparent that no aid for either society could be obtained from that source, appeal was made by both

to the Pennsylvania legislature for aid from the State. An appropriation of $5,000 was made by the State to the work of the "Memorial Association," and with this in 1887 improvements were made to the Headquarters, restoring it as nearly as possible to its original condition, and a warden's lodge was built.

By this time public sentiment, instead of crystalizing in favor of the monument idea, seemed to be gaining rapidly in favor of a State reservation which should embrace as large a portion as possible of the historic camp-grounds. Finally, with the accomplishment of such a project in view, June 8th, 1893, under an Act of the Legislature passed May 30th of that year, the "Valley Forge Park Commission" was created: "to acquire, maintain and preserve forever the Revolutionary Camp Grounds at Valley Forge for the free enjoyment of the people."

An appropriation of $25,000 was made for the purpose of the Commission, at the time of its appointment; in 1895 the sum of $10,000 more was appropriated and other amounts have since been added.

The Commission as at present constituted, includes W. H. Sayen, President; Samuel S. Hartranft, Treasurer, J. P. Hale Jenkins, M. G. Brumbaugh, John P. Nicholson, William A. Patton, John W. Jordan, Richmond L. Jones; John T. Windrum, and A. H. Bowen, Secretary and Superintendent.

On the occurrence of the 125th Anniversary of the evacuation of the Valley Forge encampment, a fitting celebration of the event was held, June 19th, 1903, under the management of the "Valley Forge Anniversary Association," organized in Philadelphia in December

of the previous year. The officers of this Association were General B. F. Fisher, of Valley Forge, President; J. P. Hale Jenkins, Esq., of Norristown, Vice-President; George N. Malsburg, of Pottstown, Treasurer; and John O. K. Robarts, of Phoenixville, Secretary. The exercises were presided over by Hon. S. W Pennypacker, then Governor of the State, and consisted of a military salute, music, patriotic addresses, the reading of Mrs. Thropp Cone's poem "The Sentinel of Valley Forge," and other interesting features, which together occupied the most of the day. The Musical Director was Mr. John O. K. Robarts, who, it may be further noted, directed the music at the Centennial Celebration in 1878, and at other celebrations occurring in 1879 and 1887, as well as that of 1903, and still lives to sing.

In the same year, 1903, the Park Commission obtained an appropriation of $93,650, enabling it greatly to extend its operations in the way of improvement and additional purchase; and on June 15th, 1905, by arrangement with the "Memorial Association," it took over into its possession the Headquarters, paying the Association $18,000 for the property. Its latest acquisition is the plot of ground in front of the Headquarters, taking in the Valley Creek and extending from the railroad arch to the bridge on the Gulph road—a plot which has been transformed into an attractive green.

Thus has the Valley Forge idea grown in its proportions from a patriotic sentiment, inflaming the hearts and inspiring the action of a noble few, until it has awakened response in the liberty-loving breasts of millions, and embodied itself in a memorial enduring as time, and eminently worthy of the glorious cause. A

bill is at present before Congress, recommending the appropriation of $100,000 for the erection of two memorial arches in the park, and with fair prospec of favorable action. Would it be extravagant to cherish the hope that some day the National government may take the entire enterprise under its wing and establish in Valley Forge a National Military Post?

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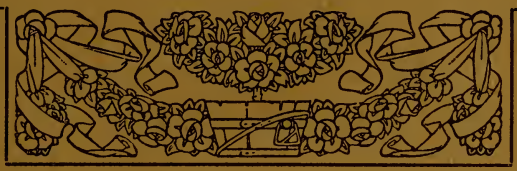
VALLEY FORGE

GUIDE AND HAND-BOOK



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